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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think the definition of who can own land in the CNMI should be changed to include long-time residents of whatever nationality?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

Millions watch as a rare "ring of fire" eclipse cross the skies.

➤ PAGE 16

WORLD

A magnitude-6.0 earthquake shakes northeast Italy, killing four.

➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Bee Gees member Robin Gibb dies after a long battle with cancer.

➤ PAGE 19

Tropical cyclone formation alert out. PAGE 3
NMC loses Upward Bound grant. PAGE 5

Army Corps finishes I-Denni excavation

» Site now ready for Saipan homestead
» DPL: Feds needed $3M more to complete remediation

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A forklift operator stacks into a waiting truck wooden palettes that used to support jumbo sacks filled with PCB-contaminated soil in I-Denni on Capital Hill.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Another page in the CNMI's military and environmental history is done after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District finished excavating some 3,337 cubic yards of soil on Capital Hill that's contaminated with leftover chemicals from World War II.

See ARMY on Page 4

Exercise Geiger Fury in full throttle

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» No. of Marines on Tinian climbs to 175

The number of U.S. Marine Aircraft Group-12 personnel out of Japan that are now on Tinian climbed to 175 and dozens more are expected, with Exercise Geiger Fury now in full swing.

Exercise Geiger Fury is the largest U.S. military exercise the CNMI has seen in years, thrusting Tinian into the spotlight as a possible permanent training site not only for U.S. forces but its allies as well, although there's no final word on this yet.

Lt. Cdr. Aisha Bakkar, public affairs officers of the Marine Forces Pacific Guam and CNMI, said yesterday that all operations "have been going exceptionally well and on time."

"The arresting gear is secured in place on West Field and the Marines anticipate having their first F/A-18 conduct an arrested landing in blackout conditions around 2am with the pilot using night vision goggles," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The bulk of the Marines arrived on Tinian on May 14 aboard a private

See EXERCISE on Page 4

CBP officer drowns while spear fishing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» 4th drowning victim in the CNMI this year

A search and rescue team recovered yesterday morning the body of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer who was reported missing Sunday night while spear fishing with two friends at Obyan Beach in the southern shores of Saipan.

The Department of Public Safety withheld the victim's name pending notification of next of kin.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources that the victim is a CBP officer based in

See CBP on Page 4

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Local

US House thumbs down bill allowing US naval vessel repairs in CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be meeting today to, among other things, discuss the possibility of re-introducing in the next Congress a newly-defeated bill that will permit the overhaul and repair of U.S. naval vessels in the CNMI.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed Friday the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act without Sablan's H.R. 4338 that would include the CNMI as a location where military vessels may be repaired.

Sablan

Fitial and Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo supported Sablan's bill.

"But we didn't do that bad. It was a good start. I will be re-introducing this in the next Congress. I will reach out to my Democratic colleagues and hopefully the governor will also reach out to his Republican friends," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said his HR 4338 does not ask for any money or contract, but some members of Congress raised concern on the bill's impact on shipyards in their jurisdictions.

"Governor Fitial was successful in getting the Guam governor support this. Guam Delegate [Madeleine] Bordallo also did not oppose it at this time," Sablan added.

Fitial and Sablan don't meet eye to eye on a host of issues but Sablan said the passage of the shipyard bill is something that they will work together on.

In an earlier statement, Sablan said with the impending buildup of military forces in the Marianas as the U.S. realigns forces to focus on the strategic importance of Asia and the Pacific, he believes the U.S. Navy should have the option to repair its vessels in any U.S. jurisdiction as H.R. 4338 would allow.

"While much work and public input would be needed before any shipyard is built in the NMI, this industry does have some potential for much-needed economic activity and job creation," Sablan had said.

Sablan's other bill, H.R. 985, made it to the Defense Authorization Act. HR 985 requires the display of CNMI and other territorial flags whenever state flags are displayed in U.S. military installations.

Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Tourism Month On-the-Street Interview

May is Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands, and this month, the Marianas Visitors Authority turns the spotlight on you for your thoughts on tourism related opinions.

What have you done in the last year to help a tourist or tourism in the Northern Marianas?

"This year I volunteered for one of the student exchange program with (Japan's) Seisa High School at Marianas High School."
Simon Necesito, 2012 Pie-eating and Youth Hotdog Eating Champion

"When we see them on the side of the road with their map on the steering wheel, we pull over and show them on the map where they are and where they want to go. Then we point them in the right direction."
Peter Aldan

"I asked this Japanese couple if they wanted me to hold their baby while they ate (at Taste of the Marianas)."
Carol Hosono and family

"We promoted Saipan by giving out Saipan-da bags and info to teams at the Jeju Ultimate Frisbee Tournament in April. The bags were a hit and sparked lots of conversation about our beautiful island. Hopefully, many come to play with us here."
Amanda Allen and Trey Dunn

Celebrate Tourism Month at the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden this Saturday at American Memorial Park from 6-11 p.m. Don't miss the Chefs' Competition beginning at 6:30 p.m.!

Tropical cyclone formation alert out

A tropical disturbance in the Marianas region is now the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

The center of the tropical disturbance was expected to pass southwest of Guam late afternoon yesterday or last night.

According to the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, the alert means there is a possibility that a tropical cyclone will form within the next 12 to 24 hours.

As of 10:30am yesterday, the tropical disturbance's center was about 115 miles south-southeast of Guam. The disturbance is expected to move northwest, with the center passing southwest of Guam late Monday night or afternoon.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms will bring heavy rain and wind gusts—possibly as high as 35 miles an hour—to the Marianas through today, Tuesday night.

EMO is advising Marianas residents to monitor the progress of this tropical disturbance as "faster-than-expected development could result in more wind and rain than currently expected."

NWS also issued a small craft advisory that is in effect from 6pm Monday to 6am Wednesday.

NWS said that winds of 20 knots with frequent gusts of up to 30 knots and combined seas of 8 to 9 feet are expected to produce conditions hazardous to operators of small craft Monday night through Tuesday night.

"Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions," NWS said in a marine weather statement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US Trustee opposes hiring of Huesman as Fund special counsel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Trustee for the District of the CNMI is opposing the NMI Retirement Fund's request to retain Braddock J. Huesman's law firm as the Fund's special counsel in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching said that based on the types of services to be provided, Huesman should be retained as general bankruptcy counsel rather than special bankruptcy counsel.

Ching said that Huesman's services will clearly include matters directly related to the Fund's Chapter 11 case.

Ching noted that Huesman has been interviewed and quoted several times in the media about this Chapter 11 case.

A general bankruptcy counsel handles the entire bankruptcy proceeding for the debtor (the Fund in this case), while a special counsel handles specific matters.

Ching said that Huesman's role in the bankruptcy reorganization effort is substantial. While the Boston-based law firm of Brown Rudnick is taking on a primary role, Huesman is the only attorney physically located in Saipan, and as such, he will have to play a large role in the Chapter 11 case, Ching said.

Huesman, according to Ching, should not be considered "special counsel," as this is limited to specific non-bankruptcy matters.

Huesman should be employed as general bankruptcy counsel and his application to be employed as special counsel should be denied, Ching added.

Ching said that at the time the Chapter 11 case was filed, Huesman was representing the Fund or its board of trustees in certain lawsuits pending in CNMI and federal courts.

Huesman also currently represents certain individual Fund board of trustee members and beneficiaries "in matters wholly unrelated to this Chapter 11 case," Ching said.

The lawyer also previously represented certain creditors and parties-in-interest "in matters wholly unrelated to this Chapter 11 case."

Ching also noted that Huesman's spouse is currently the general counsel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., a contributing employer to the Fund and is involved in litigation involving the Fund.

In the Fund's response to the motions to dismiss the Chapter 11 petition, Huesman asserted, among other things, that the Fund is not a governmental unit and therefore the federal court should deny the motions.

Legal issues snag Tinian departure terminal work

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is aggressive pushing forward the completion of the Tinian West Field International Airport departure terminal but legal issues continue to hold back the project, according to executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero.

In an interview, Deleon Guerrero said the agency cannot proceed with the retrofitting work on the new departure terminal since the matter is now under litigation.

CPA sued Texas-based firm Leo A. Daly Co. last year for its allegedly defective design of the Tinian airport's departure terminal and the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Leo A. Daly Co. was the same firm contracted to design the dialysis center for the Commonwealth Health Center. The government filed a $10 million lawsuit against the firm, which settled the case for $2 million.

Deleon Guerrero described the legal issues surrounding the departure terminal project as "big" and "very complicated."

"We need to be very careful in terms of what information needs to be put out because we want CPA to benefit from this and we want to be able to fix that building from funding that comes from people that are responsible for that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that the construction for the departure terminal and the issues that arose on the project happened before his term as executive director "and I am trying to rectify all the things that need to be done and hopefully we can resolve that issue soon."

He said that at this point, CPA is now close to determining the cost of the needed retrofitting work for the departure terminal.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the agency has hired a structural engineer to make recommendations on how the retrofitting would be done after which a contractor will establish the cost for the job to be done.

"We cannot really elaborate too much because we are going into court with them and we don't want to leak information that might compromise our case," he said.

Recognizing that the departure terminal is critical to Tinian Mayor Dela Cruz's plans to get more charter flights to the island, Deleon Guerrero remains optimistic that the mayor would understand the situation.

"These are problems that were created five or six years ago and now, we're just trying to get it to the point where they can use [the departure terminal] because as long as we don't do the retrofitting, that really will never be used."

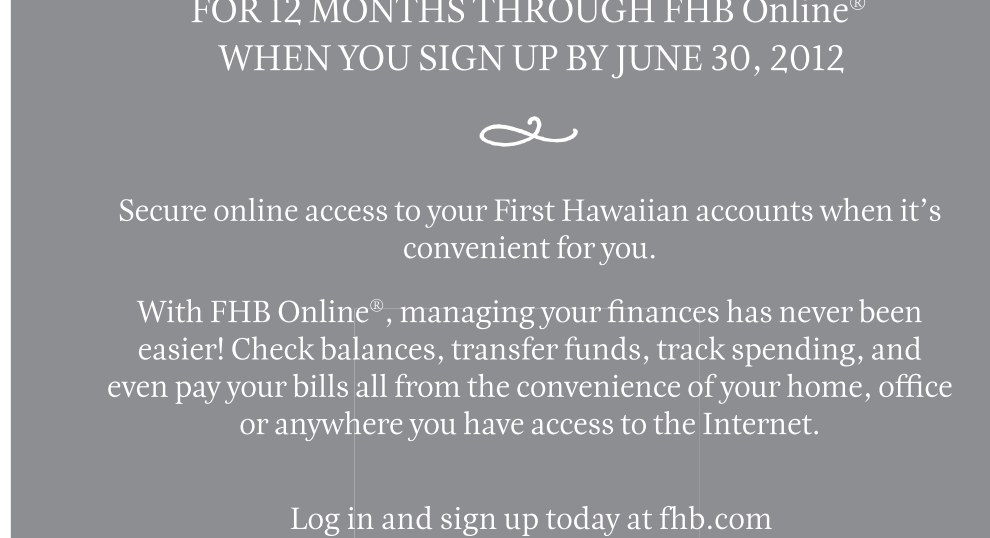
He added, "I sympathize with the mayor and the people of Tinian but there are legal questions that need to be addressed before we can move forward with that."

As for the arrival terminal, Deleon Guerrero said they are poised to announce the bid for its renovation.

"We're also pushing to address every aspect of renovation and we want to make sure that when we bid it out, that no contractor will have the chance to protest it so we can move forward with construction and get it done," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he has already met with the project designer and CPA is set to begin the review process for the arrival terminal project.

"Once we finish reviewing it, we can announce it out for construction," he added.



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Lawyers told to explain why they should not be suspended

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered attorneys Antonio M. Atalig and Reynaldo O. Yana yesterday to explain why they should not be suspended from practicing law in the district court.

Manglona said she has received from the Superior Court a copy of associate judge David A. Wiseman's order that indefinitely suspends Atalig and Yana from the practice of law in the Commonwealth.

Manglona gave Atalig and Yana 30 days to inform her of any claim that the imposition of an identical sanction in the district court would be unwarranted.

"Failure to respond may be deemed acquiescence to the imposition of reciprocal discipline," the judge said in a one-page order.

Wiseman recently ordered the suspension of Atalig and Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for their refusal to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two received from the Angel Malite estate.

Wiseman said the suspension is indefinite until Atalig and Yana have complied with some conditions.

"The misconduct of [Atalig and Yana] detailed in this order reflects adversely on an attorney's honesty, trustworthiness and fitness as a lawyer," Wiseman had said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CBP

From Page 1

Guam and assigned on Saipan.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said a search team spotted the victim's body at about 9:20am, floating in the ocean some 200 yards outside the reef off Coral Ocean Point.

The rescue boat arrived at Smiling Cove Marina around 10am and transported the body of the 30-year-old victim to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Tarkong said that a 911 operator sent police and fire units to Obyan Beach on Sunday at 10:15pm after receiving a call about a missing swimmer.

Police learned that the victim had gone fishing with his two friends but got stuck outside the reef. The victim attempted several times to enter the small channel but was unsuccessful. His friends made it back to shore and called for help.

Officers and personnel from DPS Boating Safety, Commonwealth Ports Police, and NMI Fish and Wildlife immediately conducted water searches. DPS Fire's Search and Rescue Unit, along with EMO and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, helped search the cliffline and shoreline on foot.

A U.S. Navy helicopter also joined the search throughout the evening into daybreak.

This is the fourth drowning incident in the CNMI this year. All incidents happened on Saipan.

On March 6, a 76-year-old Japanese male tourist drowned while swimming with three friends at a beach near Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. A strong current reportedly pulled the victim from the sandbar located in front of Hyatt.

On April 16, a female Chinese tourist drowned on Managaha Islands as she and companions were exiting the water to head back to shore.

On April 23, a 4-year-old girl passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center after a near-drowning incident at the Pacific Islands Club's pool two days before.

There was only one drowning incident reported last year. The son of the B&R Auto Shop owner drowned while scuba diving with friends at Lau Lau Beach in April 2011.

EXERCISE

From Page 1

high-speed vessel, joining others who came to Tinian from Guam, totaling around 120.

Additional Marines started coming in on C-130s on May 15.

"Right now we have a total of 175 Marines on Tinian," Bakkar said.

Of that number, 83 are working up at North Field, 81 at West Field, eight at the water purification point on Chulu Beach and three at the Tinian Health Clinic, she said. MAG-12 has been providing free medical and dental services to island residents.

Exercise Geiger Fury allows Marine Aircraft Group-12 "to improve aviation combat readiness and simulate operations in a deployed austere environment," among other things.

Bakkar said the training goes on, rain or shine.

"But if we start having adverse weather conditions with excessive winds, then air operations could be impacted. But standard storms won't stop operations. Our numbers will flex between 175 and 200 as Marines travel back and forth from Guam. They have been averaging about three C-130 flights a day either delivering equipment and personnel or fuel," she said.

This week will see 24-hour Marine operations both on Tinian and in Guam.

Since the Marines' arrival last week, Tinian has seen a flurry of activities that residents and local government officials hope would help boost the local economy.

Exercise Geiger Fury is also seen as another milestone in the partnership between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Defense, which leases two-thirds of Tinian.

Joseph Cruz, vice chair of the Tinian Municipal Council, said that Tinian waited for several years for such a military exercise to be done on island but the wait will be all worth it.

"The military is now using its leased land. And I also give credit to Tinian Mayor [Ramon] Dela Cruz and others who made this happen," he said.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A U.S. Marine convoy makes their way to Tinian's West Field, a few hours after their arrival on the island on May 14, for Exercise Geiger Fury. The exercise is now in full swing, transforming sleepy Tinian into a bustling hub.

ARMY

From Page 1

The Department of Public Lands, which asked the Army Corps for the remediation work a few years back, is now poised to revisit the I-Denni area for its homestead subdivision plan.

The area, also called Edoni, was previously used by the U.S. military as a waste pit during and after the war. Among the chemicals that were found at the site were polychlorinated biphenyls and lead, which cause cancer.

"The Army Corps or the Department of Defense needed an additional $3 million just to be able to complete the project. We are glad that the Army Corps committed itself to completing this project," DPL director of Planning Division Patricia Rasa told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The cost jumped to over $3 million because the volume of contaminated soil turned out to be much more than what was originally estimated.

The original estimate was only up to 600 cubic yards of contaminated soil, and the project was originally budgeted $603,543.73.

When the remediation work was completed, the total volume of contaminated soil excavated reached some 3,337 cubic yards—456 percent higher than initially projected.

Subcontractors were seen last week packing the equipment and other materials used in the excavation.

Hawaii-based Wil-Chee Planning Inc. is the Army Corps' contractor for the project.

Joseph Bonfiglio, chief of public affairs at Army Corps-Honolulu District, confirmed that the remedial action was completed on May 17 and the final truckload of lead-contaminated soil was removed from the site that day.

The final bulk sack containing PCB-impacted soil was removed from the site on May 14.

"We are very pleased to be winding up another successful environmental project, which will have a positive impact on the people of Saipan. We are fully committed to ensuring public health and safety," Bonfiglio told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said the Army Corps' goal in the Formerly Used Defense Sites or FUDS program "is to reduce risk to human health and the environment through implementation of effective, legally compliant, and cost-effective response actions done to the highest standards of safety."

Bonfiglio said no backfilling of the pit has occurred or is planned at the request of DPL.

Rasa said that DPL will reassess its plan, now that the remediation of the site has been completed.

She cited, for example, that the pit could be turned into a ponding basin, something that was not originally considered at the site where the excavation occurred.

"The original plan was to have 78 additional homesteads but now we are looking at the contour and the landscape and see whether we could turn the pit into a ponding basin," Rasa added.

Extent of contamination

Of the estimated 3,337 cubic yards of soil excavated from the area, 1,537 cubic yards were contaminated with PCB and about 1,888 cubic yards were laced with lead, Bonfiglio said.

Bonfiglio said the highest level of PCBs reported in this project was 6.1 milligrams per kilogram, equivalent to 6.1 parts per million.

"PCBs in confirmation soil samples recently collected were not detected above the laboratory's reporting limit of 0.012 milligrams per kilogram, which is below the CNMI environmental screening level of 1.1 milligrams per kilogram," he said.

The highest lead concentration in confirmation samples recently collected was 35 milligrams per kilogram, below the 200 milligrams per kilogram CNMI environmental screening level, he added.

Bonfiglio said the project is completed and was cleaned up "to unlimited use level, meaning that it is safe for residential use."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said he's glad that the remediation work is completed "so that DPL can proceed with its homestead project" that will house a large number of families on Saipan.

"We're glad that Army Corps completed this. We will continue to work with them to also clean up other formerly used defense sites in the CNMI," he said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), who knew about the military's use of the site as a repository of all types of waste when he was still young, welcomes the remediation completion as "welcome news."

"I appreciate what they've done and hopefully there will be a continuous cleanup until all the contaminated sites in the CNMI are taken cared of. I know there are other former dump sites used by the military that have yet to be cleaned up," he added.

Juan I. Tenorio, former chairman of the Tanapag Action Group which was a major force in ensuring that the Army Corps complete its cleanup of Tanapag of PCB in 2003, took a skeptical view of the I-Denni remediation.

"It turned out to be a major contamination site. But they went ahead to just dig up the place and ship the contaminated soil to the U.S. Did the U.S. government really allow contaminated material to enter the U.S.? Why did Army Corps treat I-Denni differently from Tanapag? And lead contaminated soil are brought to Marpi landfill just like that?" he asked.

The I-Denni project comes nine years after the completion of the $20 million PCB contamination cleanup in Tanapag in 2003 involving 40,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil.

The Army Corps treated the contaminated soil in Tanapag onsite and shipped the treated soil to the U.S. mainland.

Saipan was the site of heavy fighting between U.S. and Japanese forces during World War II. To this day, live ordnance and chemicals from the war are still being discovered in several areas of the island.

Besides I-Denni, there are other FUDS on Saipan that require remediation, including the Hospital Dump Site, American Memorial Park, Naftan Bomb Storage, Ordnance Plan, Naftan Ordnance Disposal, North Field, Marpi Point Field, Tanapag Fuel Farm, and the Koblerville Naval Supply Center.

NMC loses Upward Bound grant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The grant application of the Northern Marianas College for the Upward Bound program has been turned down.

Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, president of the CNMI's community college, delivered the bad news to the Board of Regents during yesterday's meeting.

"We have received word this past week that the Upward Bound grant that we submitted was not approved," Hart told the board.

Upward Bound is a federally funded program under the U.S. Department of Education that serves high school students from low-income families and those from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. It aims to prepare participants to enter, enroll and graduate from college.

The program has a grant cycle between four and five years. The competitive grant application is opened on the third year to qualified institutions throughout the nation and NMC was previously approved for the grant for five years.

Hart said that NMC has been receiving the grant since its inception.

Based on the information they received the last few days, Hart said that NMC will still not qualify for the grant even if there is leftover funding for the program due to the college's low scoring.

» Third grant to be rejected in 3 consecutive years

"It doesn't look good for us," Hart said.

Although Hart did not disclose the score at the meeting, she said that the maximum rating for Upward Bound applications is 107.

The Upward Bound Program is the third federally funded program that NMC has lost in the last three years, according to Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan.

Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* that NMC also lost the Educational Talent Search program last year and the Student Support Services program in 2010. All three grants make up NMC's TRIO program.

According to Pangelinan, the rejection of the Upward Bound grant application will affect six staff under the program, all of whom have already been informed about this.

Hart said she is "shocked and extremely disappointed" with the application denial at a time when the college actually hired the services of a grant writer who specializes in the Upward Bound grant "because we knew how important this grant is going to be for the institution."

She noted at the meeting that the same grant writer worked on the Upward Bound application of the University of Guam, which was approved.

Hart emphasized that they are working "almost on a daily basis" with the office of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to see what could be done to remedy the situation. They also plan to sit down with officials of the U.S. Department of Education to find out what happened.

Additionally, Hart underscored the need for them to be "very, very aggressive" in working with federal authorities to ensure that NMC maintains its grants—in the same way that the Public School System is aggressive with its federal funding by being in Washington "all the time."

Employees tried but failed to kill blaze at H Mart

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Using two fire extinguishers and water, H Mart employees first attempted to suppress the fire that broke out Saturday afternoon at the store but were unsuccessful, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the fire spread rapidly, prompting employees to evacuate the building and call 911 for assistance. No one was injured.

» Fire leaves over $1M in damage

A 911 operator sent police and fire units to H Mart, located along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau, at 2:55pm Saturday. Upon arriving at the scene, police and firefighters noticed that the northern side of the building was already engulfed in fire and that flames and heavy black smoke were already pouring out from the shattered glass windows of the building.

Fire investigators' initial investigation showed that the blaze started in the general manager's office on the second floor. No one was in the office at the time.

Tarkong said that employees were first alerted to the fire by the smoke alarm.

The control manager of H Mart told *Saipan Tribune* that they have eight employees but only three were inside the building when the blaze occurred.

Tarkong said the office structure was made of wood and contained numerous amounts of combustible materials, adding to the rapid spread of the blaze.

"The building is used as a general merchandise and storage area, which also contributed to the fire spread throughout the rest of the building," he said.

He said several hundred cases of butane canisters were also in the building, causing several explosions and prompting fire investigators to close down Middle Road and divert the traffic flow to Beach Road.

The cause of the fire is still undetermined pending further investigation, Tarkong said.

Police officer Eric David, the unified command public information officer, told *Saipan Tribune* Sunday that the pressure at two nearby fire hydrants was very low so tankers had to leave to refill their water supply.

David said it also took time for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to reroute the water flow in order to utilize the two available fire hydrants at the scene.

The fire, reportedly the lengthiest structure blaze in the CNMI in the last two decades, caused an estimated over $1 million in damage to H Mart.

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Leadership turnover at NMC's Faculty Senate

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Archivist John Cook officially ended his term as Faculty Senate president of the Northern Marianas College yesterday.

Cook assumed the post in February after it was vacated by Dr. John Griffin, NMC's former business department chair who retired after two years at the college.

As Faculty Senate president, Cook served as an honorary member of the Board of Regents.

During yesterday's board meeting, chair Juan T. Lizama presented Cook a plaque of appreciation for his three-month work with the board.

"I thank this body for its leadership and kindness and serving with you is one of the highlights of my career at NMC," said Cook, adding that he has great faith in the new Faculty Senate leadership.

Cook was replaced by Roy Greenland as president after an election among the faculty staff on May 8. Other new officers are vice president Amanda Angel-Diaz and secretary James Kline.

In his final report to the board, Cook noted that work continues on faculty policy review and that the faculty remains "very concerned" about faculty ranks and contracts.

Cook disclosed that faculty hiring remains "virtually unchanged," although this may change soon or upon submission of the next Faculty Senate report.

According to Cook, the non-instructional faculty has grown and is far-reaching—from library to counseling and even some of the staff at NMC-CREES.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart disclosed yesterday that seven faculty positions are currently being routed internally and will be advertised externally if they remain unfilled.

Hart said the board was informed late last year that the college is low on faculty staff but high on administrative and non-instructional personnel.

"So we're trying to do some shifts," Hart explained. "We're trying to advertise internally to see if some of these support staff have the qualifications and may be interested to switching to the faculty side so we can have equilibrium there."

With the college not receiving enough funds from the Legislature, Hart said that a shift from non-instructional to faculty staff may be deemed as an incentive at this point.

Hart also stressed that for this year alone, the college lost about four to five faculty members and is now relying on adjuncts and giving added responsibilities to other instructors.

She added that keeping the faculty staff has also been a challenge given that they have not received any increase for several years now, prompting a number of them to accept opportunities elsewhere.

Staff Senate president Marie Coleman noted that even if some staff may be interested in becoming faculty members, they may not be qualified as there are certain requirements that need to be met to become a part of the faculty.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama of the Northern Marianas College presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing Faculty Senate president John Cook, who officially ended his term yesterday, as NMC president Sharon Y. Hart looks on. Cook, who took over the post vacated by Dr. John Griffin, was replaced by Roy Greenland.

3 new nominees to Election Commission, MPLT

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted to the Senate last week the names of three other nominees to the Commonwealth Election Commission and the Marianas Public Land Trust board, around the same time he withdrew three nominations to the election board and the Board of Professional Licensing.

Their nominations require the advice and consent of the Senate.

Fitial nominated Trinidad L. Rabauliman and George Moses Sr., both representing Saipan, to the Election Commission.

If confirmed by the Senate, Rabauliman will fill a seat vacated by Jose L. Itibus and her term will expire on Aug. 8, 2013.

Moses will serve the unexpired term of Elizabeth DLG. Aldan, expiring also on Aug. 18, 2013, if he gets confirmed.

The governor also appointed Francisco Q. Deleon Guerrero to serve on MPLT.

If confirmed by the Senate, Deleon Guerrero will serve a six-year term that will expire on Jan. 8, 2018.

The governor made the appointment weeks after the Senate rejected the re-appointment of his sister, Gregoria Fitial-Omar, to the MPLT board, as well as that of Alvaro Santos, now chief financial officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., over MPLT's questionable purchase of property.

The governor submitted the three new names around the same time he withdrew on Monday and Tuesday last week the nominations of Juan S. Torres to the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees; Candido I. Castro to serve as a member of BPL representing Saipan as a surveyor; and Joseph P. Rosario to serve on the Commonwealth Election Commission representing Saipan. The nominees declined the nominations for "personal reasons."

Public hearing

In other news, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said the committee will be holding hearings on two of three nominees to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

The hearings will be held on Thursday, May 24, at 10am at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

They are Joseph C. Guerrero representing Saipan, and Zenie Palacios representing Tinian. The third nominee, Oscar Patrick Quitugua, is not included in the schedule.

The three have already been confirmed by the House.

CPUC nominees require the advice and consent of both the House and Senate.

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Administration negotiating 10-year buyback with Social Security

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Here are excerpts of an interview with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Saturday, a day after he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met with House members led by Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), a senator and legislative counsels, on the need to transition the NMI Retirement Fund to the U.S. Social Security Administration:

Media: Are these plans premised on the withdrawal of the bankruptcy filing? What if it's not dismissed?

Inos: The plan continues and the only way that it will not work is that if the bankruptcy proceedings continue. You can't have both ways run at the same time but it is our hope that if the case is dismissed, we got greater flexibility to restructure the system as we envision that would allow for the, essentially address the social, the retirement needs of every government worker.

The Chapter 11 filing is essentially focused on the retirees, and that's fine. But there are other aspects of the system that do not address other groups of employees.

For example, active employees who have not retired or active employees who are not members of the defined contribution plan, i.e. those members of the defined benefit plan. So our plan is to address all those three groups of employees. There's got to be a little bit of sacrifice but in the end, everyone will have some kind of safety net that will take care of their social welfare needs to a certain extent.

Then there's the members of the defined contribution plan who have nothing other than the defined contribution savings, which remain at the discretion of the employees. Those employees who previously transferred to the defined benefit plan from defined contribution plan and have left the government, they have essentially withdrawn their savings in the DC plan, what do they have? Nothing.

Media: So the plan now is to transition into U.S. Social Security System?

Inos: Yes, U.S. Social Security Administration permitting the transfer, a discussion that is currently ongoing, that we hope to transition those DB members, active members into Social Security. Social Security has advised that they would allow a five-year buyback. To retire under Social Security system, one must have had accrued earnings of a total of at least 40 quarters, that's 10 years. This one will allow them five years or 20 quarters, so…other than the fact that they need to reach the age of 62 for early retirement or 65 or 66 for full retirement, all they need to do is work for another five years to fulfill that requirement.

We hope that those members of the defined contribution plan will also be covered under this thing so we will have the kind of safety net that we're seeking for these folks absent the CNMI retirement system which we all know is not sustainable.

Media: We thought the CNMI government is negotiating a buyback longer than five years?

Inos: Yes, we're trying to negotiate for a period longer than five years. Hopefully, 10 years or 40 quarters.

How long has the administration been communicating with Social Security?

Inos: Back in 2006, when we first came into office and we saw that this liability of the Retirement Fund is so huge that it would be unmanageable, so we embarked on a process to take a look at how can we save it and so we first looked at Social Security. Social Security at the time basically opined that 'everybody or nobody in the system' and so because of that we then opted to go into a 457 plan or similar to a 401K where we take people out of the retirement system and move them over here. The only problem is that's a system that allows employees to basically manage their money, which is good, but you know money is in mutual fund, money market goes up and down. But when they quit government employment, they draw the savings out. It's not a retirement system per se. Like a savings account.

So the responsibility is on us leaders to ensure that these folks are protected.

Media: Can the government afford going back to Social Security?

Inos: We can take a look at various sources. Keep in mind that, in the case of the employee side, the employee currently contributes between 9 and 11 percent, I guess, of their base gross salary to the defined benefit plan. The Social Security contribution rate right now is 4 percent. So there's a spread there. There's enough money, so we can take 40 percent of what they will receive under House Bill 226, OK, take that in, and pay Social Security, and that takes care of their thing and there still remains 60 percent that's available within the Fund that they may draw or not, which is something we need to work out because we don't want them to draw entirely and shut the Fund.

Media: What about the employer contribution?

Inos: For the employer, go back again. We've contributed basically 30 percent. What's required under Social Security would be 6 percent so you've got that spread.

Media: So it's taken cared of?

Inos: Well, in a way yes but then the question is, if we take employer contribution from there, what's going to happen to the Fund? As it is right now, based on calculations, in the Fund there's about $113 million, say $120 million, that belongs to the contributions of the active employees. So if you take that away from $240 million, you are left with $120 million just for the pensioners. For $120 million, at the rate of $60 million a year, it only takes you two years. So our plan is to stretch that…for a period of another two years. So that we've got enough breathing room to figure out how were going to fund it and so forth. But in the meantime, how do we do it? We stretch it for two years, the $60 million currently is almost entirely being drawn from the Fund to pay the pensions. If we say we'll only draw 50 percent from the Fund to make the pensions…where's the other $30 million going to come from, right?

Ten million dollars is already in the budget as a line item. So you got $20 million to go. I think what we like to see is work on those legislation that are currently on the table that's supposed to reduce the liability... Hopefully we'll come to maybe $15 million to $10 million that we would need at the end of the day. I think that's a manageable situation.

Media: Where will that $10 million to $15 million come from?

Inos: I believe that if we take care of some of these things like stop the COLA, all those add-ons, I think we can save another $5 million. So we might be down to $10 million to $15 million. I think that's manageable. We can find sources for that. As I said, all options are on the table right now.

Media: If negotiations with Social Security don't work, can the government still maintain the NMI Retirement Fund by cutting 50 percent of the benefits?

Inos: We're not proposing that. (It's some lawmakers who are proposing that). We want to make the retirees [get their benefits]. That's why we have to pump this thing. Now this scenario won't allow new entry into the DB plan and this approach will not allow any new retirees from the DB plan so what you have basically is a closed system. If we're disbursing now $60 million, every year that retirees go away, then that $60 million will keep reducing down until we pay the last [pension].

Media: What is going to happen on Tuesday during and after your teleconference with Social Security?

Inos: Our decision right now is, Social Security permitting, we're going to Social Security. If they say "no," we need legislation, then we're going to do legislation. And if we can't do that, then we'll set up something that's is equivalent to a Social Security system but still allows for certain benefits and so forth. But I tell you, we can't afford the existing retirement [system]. It is not sustainable. Doing nothing is not an option.

Media: Why a five-year buyback?

Inos: Five years, as we understand it, is already provided for by law. What we're trying to see is if we could get more than five years. Ten years, but see it really varies after the five years. Because like me, I have creditable services from the private sector for which I am eligible for Social Security services wages and so forth. So if have four years of that, then plus five, is nine, so all I need is one [year] more. So the work of those people in the private sector [is credited]. The work of those people out in the private sector in the past [is credited]. That's why we have U.S. Social Security numbers because they keep track of all those.

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*This promotion is valid from May 15, 2012 to August 15, 2012. No purchase necessary. Terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, inquire at your nearest Western Union Agent location.

NMC Adult School graduates 12 on Tinian

Twelve students from the Northern Marianas College's Adult School program, which is under the Adult Basic Education program, received their high school diplomas during a ceremony held recently at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site.

Graduates Juanita Aldan Mendiola received the Highest Grade Point Average Award followed by Steven Sablan Mendiola and Elisa Pangelinan Aquiningoc.

"This program gave us a second chance to achieve our goals in life," said the three graduates in their video message that was played during the ceremony. "In today's world, one cannot find work without a high school diploma."

NMC officials in attendance included NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, ABE state director/GED administrator Lorraine T. Cabrera, and special guest speaker, dean/director of Community Programs and Service Ross Manglona.

"We would like to encourage the community to take advantage of this program to improve their quality of life," said Cabrera.

Last December, the ABE program graduated 22 students from the Adult School program on Tinian. A new cohort for the Tinian Family Literacy program, which offers the Adult School diploma, will begin on July 23 and will continue until Dec. 7, 2012.

NMC

Northern Marianas College Adult School program graduates take time to pose for a group photo with NMC officials and Tinian Municipal Council officials after receiving their high school diplomas and academic awards during a ceremony held at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site.

Those residing on Tinian interested in receiving their high school diploma may pick up an application at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site. For more information, contact staff at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site at 433-0649/0657.

NMC's Adult Basic Education programs and services are also available for those residing on Saipan or Rota. For more information, contact ABE at 234-5498 Ext. 1722 or visit their office in Building T at the NMC As Terlaje campus. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Dawn Margaret V. Sarmiento, who recently graduated from the Northern Marianas College. We're so proud of you. Greetings come from Mom, zacaby, Ro, and Paige.

Roasts, reds and rendezvous: The grand finale

Hyatt Regency Saipan and Certified Angus Beef proudly present the fifth annual Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous grand finale dinner event.

The grand finale event is on Friday, May 25, 2012, from 6pm onwards and is priced at $125 per person and $80 for Club at the Hyatt members. Make Giovanni's your special rendezvous for a party of eight or more and enjoy the dinner for just $70 per person.

This year, to add more value for its guests, Hyatt will serve a seven-course dinner featuring dishes expertly paired with wines from Kendall-Jackson, Fifth Leg, Devil's Lair and Lindemans.

"This is a change from the typical cocktail setting we have done for previous years. Throughout the season, we want our diners to try our splendid menus capped with a grand finale dinner," said director of Food and Beverage Michael Wilson. ***(Hyatt)***

Notice of adoption of new scholarship regs

The CNMI Scholarship Advisory Board has altered the amendments earlier made to the Educational Assistance Program and approved changes including provisions to allow new Educational Assistance Program applicants from Tinian and Rota a waiver from the requirement of attendance at the Northern Marianas College, increase the current cumulative grade point average requirement, and extend the award duration. The newly enacted changes to the Educational Assistance Program will affect both current and incoming applicants.

1. Requirement of attendance at the Northern Marianas College

Beginning with the fall 2012 semester, all new applicants will only receive financial assistance if they are either enrolled at NMC or if they are enrolled at another accredited institution and have already obtained an associate's degree. The requirement of attendance at NMC will only apply to those new applicants on Saipan. New applicants from islands other than Saipan are exempt from this requirement until such time that NMC is equipped to offer onsite instruction on those islands and/or full-fledged online programs. Any applicant may request a waiver from this requirement, which the board may grant on a case-by-case basis upon showing of good cause and in accordance with its written policy and guidelines. Interested applicants will be notified of the good cause waiver policy and process.

2. Removes scholarship assistance for participants in NMC's Early Admissions Program

High School applicants under NMC's Early Admissions Program will not receive scholarship assistance until the High School graduation requirement is met.

3. Increase the minimum CGPA for satisfactory academic progress from 2.25 to 2.75

Ongoing recipients will be given until the end of the spring 2013 semester to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 and above or risk denial from the program for that one semester. Recipients who lose the award when the CGPA falls below 2.75 may be reinstated if their CGPA goes up to 2.75.

4. Authorizes the Scholarship Advisory Board, in its discretion, to extend the duration of an award.

Ongoing full-time recipients pursuing an associate's degree are given two and half academic years' worth of awards. Full-time recipients pursuing a Bachelor's degree are allowed four and a half academic years' worth of awards. These established duration periods may be extended upon a showing of good cause (i.e. certified disabilities, documented injury or illness, emergency situation, intensive dual degree programs, and other academic circumstances beyond the student's control).

Note that these rules and regulations have been adopted by the Scholarship Advisory Board and published in the *Commonwealth Register*. CNMI Scholarship new applicants and ongoing recipients will be notified and the information will be posted and disseminated accordingly.

Questions about the Educational Assistance Program could be directed to the CNMI Scholarship Office at 664-4750 or to the board via email cnmisab@cnmischolarship.com. For more information the CNMI Scholarship program, go to www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(Office of the Governor)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday Jillian Jade Pangelinan Concepcion! Jilly, you bring extreme joy not only to our lives but to many others. We wish you the same indescribable joy today and everyday of your precious life. We love you forever and ever, baby. Love, Mommy and Daddy.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 22, 2000

Guerrero defends CUC vs Lang

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero has defended the agency from criticisms leveled by former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio who has slammed their recent decisions for allegedly violating its policies and regulations. In a letter to the ex-chief executive responding to accusations, he sought to justify the board's actions, saying that they were done in accordance with the law. Mr. Tenorio earlier has written to the CUC chair asking him to suspend board's activities as he expressed alarm at the alleged ignorance by some of the members on their responsibilities and duties to the government corporation.

Continental to begin non-stop service to Seoul

Continental Airlines has announced that it will resume serving Seoul, South Korea starting July 16, 2000. The airline will fly two times a week to Seoul, non-stop from Guam. A Boeing 737-800 aircraft will service the route every Thursday and Sunday. Flying time from Guam will be approximately 4.5 hours. Continental flight 927 will depart Guam at 5:25 p.m. and arrive in Seoul at 9:05 p.m. Departure of Continental flight 928 from Seoul will be at 9:55 p.m. and arrive in Guam at 3:05 a.m. the following day. "We're excited about reentering the Korean market as it is the second largest tourism source for Micronesia, " said Walter Dias, Continental Airlines staff vice president of Sales and Promotions.

May 22, 2001

Import-export revenues may drop to 3-year low

Earnings from excise tax and user fee for the financial year 2001 is likely to become the lowest in three years, based on current figures obtained from the CNMI Division of Customs Services. Customs Director Jose C. Mafnas said that if the current collection trend continues, government revenue from excise tax and user fee could reach a shortfall of as much as $3 million. Figures released by the division for the first seven months of the fiscal year, indicate that collections from excise tax and user fee averaged $5.15 million during the period October 2000-April 2001.

CNMI receives support of Congress ally

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial received a letter from US Rep. John T. Doolittle (R-CA) regarding the status of federal funding for the Rota and Tinian port projects. Mr. Fitial said there has been a great deal of attention recently concerning Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta's support for the development of the Rota and Tinian ports. "While I certainly appreciate the Secretary's support, the decision to provide federal funds for these projects was made by Congress through appropriations to the Army Corps of Engineers," he said. Mr. Fitial added that these studies received funding only because "we were able to enlist the help of our friends in the US Congress."

May 22, 2002

'Allocate $2-M Compact funds to PSS, DPH, DPS'

Instead of dividing the $2 million Compact Impact money among the three senatorial districts, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has moved to allocate it to the three primary public services: education, public health and public safety. In a move that House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider described as evidence of the "big heart" of Saipan lawmakers, the delegation adopted a resolution yesterday that would allocate the $2 million that the CNMI recently received as Compact Impact payments for Fiscal Year 2002 to the Public School System, the Department of Public Health and Department of Public Safety.

Miller wants proof of NMI labor reforms

Though supportive in helping the Commonwealth achieve long-term economic stability, U.S. Rep. George Miller is, however, seeking proof of the CNMI's sincerity in implementing labor reforms. Toward this goal, his office has asked Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio to provide the American congressman with documents and reports on specific labor matters, with particular focus on the status of nonresident worker recruitment in the garment industry. In a letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Tenorio said he recently met with Dr. John Lawrence of Rep. Miller's office "and found him to be very open and interested in assisting the CNMI achieve long-term economic stability. However, he asked to updates on reforms that you and Rep. Miller discussed earlier."

Is your organization ready to respond to emergencies?

The May general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will feature the topic "Is your organization ready to prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies?" It will be presented by John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter.

The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, May 24, 2012, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

All organizations must be prepared for disasters at any given moment. The process of developing a plan and being ready for a disaster can be burdensome and sometimes complicated, but it still needs to be done. This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn about:

■ Why being prepared is important to your employees.

■ How a disaster (natural or manmade) could seriously disrupt your business.

■ Are both your business and your employees prepared for a disaster?

■ The importance of having a plan in place.

■ How different disasters require different plans of actions.

■ Penalties businesses will face if there is no disaster plan in place.

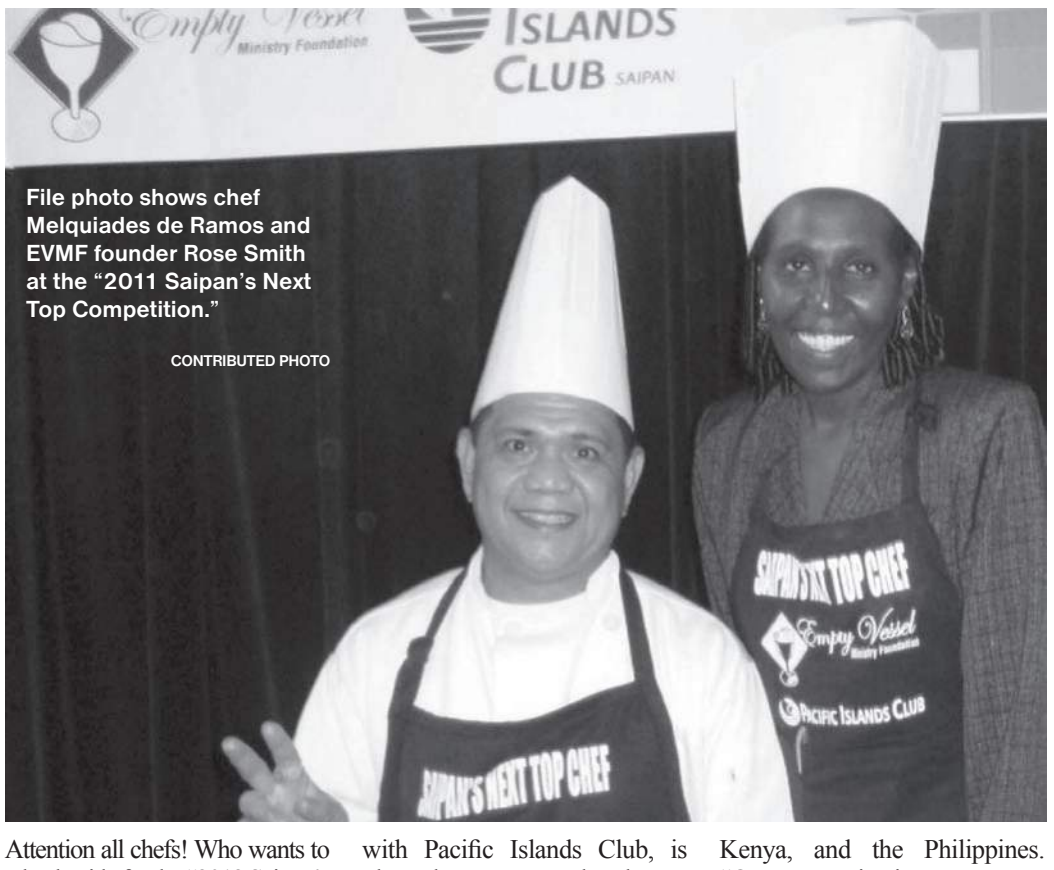
■ Statistics showing the most common disasters in the CNMI and how you can be prepared.

With the recent disasters globally, now, more than ever, it is critical for CNMI employers to find out how to prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies in order to avoid any violations and fines.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail her at shrmnmichapter@gmail.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

Who wants to be Saipan's next top chef?



File photo shows chef Melquiades de Ramos and EVMF founder Rose Smith at the "2011 Saipan's Next Top Competition."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Attention all chefs! Who wants to take the title for the "2012 Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition"? If you love to cook, and you're ready to show off your culinary skills and help a worthy cause, sign up for this exciting event.

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, in conjunction with Pacific Islands Club, is pleased to announce that the annual fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, July 28, 2012, at the Charley's Cabaret.

Rose Smith, founder of the EVMF, said the funds that are raised will be committed to assisting families on Saipan, in Kenya, and the Philippines. "Our organization sponsors programs such as free health screenings for women, school supplies to children, and education tuition for orphans and street children," she added.

Last year, Saipan's Top Chef winner, Melquiades De Ramos, said "The best part about winning, is knowing that I was a part of an event that raised money to help desperate families, especially orphans and women. I encourage all chefs to join the competition and help this wonderful charity."

Prizes will award to the top three chefs garnering points from a panel of judges. Space is limited and if you're interested in competing, contact the organizers, Rose Smith at 483-0162 or email roseevm@yahoo.com; Shelli Neal at shellineal@gmail.com; or Vicky Benavente at 237-5103 or vickybenavente@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

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Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems and 1 year of supervisory experience. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

PIC Employment Applications are available at the Security Desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is **5pm on May 25, 2012.**

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

In the United States District Court For the Northern Mariana Islands Bankruptcy Division

In re Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

Bankr. Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Motion to Dismiss filed by the CNMI Government in the above-entitled matter is set for hearing before Hon. Robert J. Faris on **June 1, 2012** at **9:30 a.m.** in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan.

Dated: May 16, 2012

By: Office of the Attorney General

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN — **BOUTIKI**

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

TEAM LEADER

Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

PIC Employment Applications are available at the Security Desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is **5pm on May 25, 2012.**

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of May 03, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use application #2011-3552: Mr. Luisito Baltazar of the Church of God In Christ, Inc. dba Blessed Temple Christian Fellowship is proposing to operate a Church on residential lot 006 H 28 in Chalan Kanoa. This property is located on Chalan Kanoa Drive and within a Village Residential zoning district.
2. Conditional Use Appplication #2011-3730: Mr. Angelito Galang of GD Corp. dba Twinkle Brite Water Company is proposing to operate a manufacturing and processing facility for drinking water bottling and retail on lot #551-B-R1 in Afetna, San Antonio. This property is located in a Mixed Commercial zoning district.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Church of God in Christ, Inc.
(dba: Blessed Temple Christian Fellowship)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Luisito Baltazar is proposing to operate a Church on residential lot 006 H 28 in Chalan Kanoa. This property is located on Chalan Kanoa Drive and within a Village Residential zoning district.

Date: June 4, 2012, Monday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 31, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

GD Corporation
(dba: Twinkle Brite Water Company)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Angelito Galang is proposing to operate a manufacturing and processing facility for drinking water bottling and retail on lot #551-B-R1 in Afetna, San Antonio. This property is located in a Mixed Commercial zoning district.

Date: June 4, 2012, Monday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 31, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Revenge of the Village People

As a singer and songwriter for the 1970s disco group the Village People, Victor Willis scored multiple hits that helped define that era for the baby boom generation. Now, Willis (the one dressed as a motorcycle cop) stands to collect a larger share of the money those hits generate. This month he won a legal battle to reclaim his share of the copyrights to the songs he co-wrote, including such classics as "Y.M.C.A." and "Macho Man." It's a step many other top artists from that era are starting to take as well, threatening to shake up the industry even more than the disco revolution did.

For almost as long as the law has protected copyrights, it has also given creators the ability to reclaim the rights they assign to publishers and distributors. The justification is that authors, songwriters and other creators have little bargaining power when they're just starting their careers, so they should have a chance to renegotiate after they're well established. When Congress updated federal copyright law in 1976, though, it decreed that artists had to wait 35 years before they could reclaim their rights, and even then they had to give publishers at least two years' notice.

That change applied to works created in or after 1978, meaning that the first set of music rights can be reclaimed in 2013. Willis notified two publishers holding the rights to Village People songs last year, but they resisted, arguing that he shouldn't be able to act without the support of the majority of the writers credited on those songs (Willis typically shared credits with two or three other writers). But U.S. District Judge Barry T. Moskowitz in Los Angeles ruled that not only could Willis reclaim his share of the rights unilaterally, he could strike nonexclusive deals to use the songs in commercials, movies and other new products without the consent of his writing partners. He would merely be obliged to pay them their share of the proceeds.

Industry executives say they expect many songwriters and recording artists to stay with their current publishers and labels, but to use the termination process to claim a bigger cut of the royalties. Yet the landscape is much different from what it was three decades ago. The Internet and digital technologies have increased the demand for music and given artists many new ways to promote, distribute, monetize and monitor the use of their works without the help of corporate middlemen. That's especially important to acts whose works have been left unexploited in a label's vaults, overlooked in the passage of time.

The baby boomer audience remains large and hungry for songs from Willis' heyday. Music industry economist Barry Massarsky estimates that standards and older songs make up about 60 percent of the music aired on commercial radio, which translates to more than half of the $300 million in royalties that songwriters collect from radio each year. Willis' victory has made many more artists aware of the chance they have to reclaim their rights, or at the very least win a larger share of the money their songs are still making.

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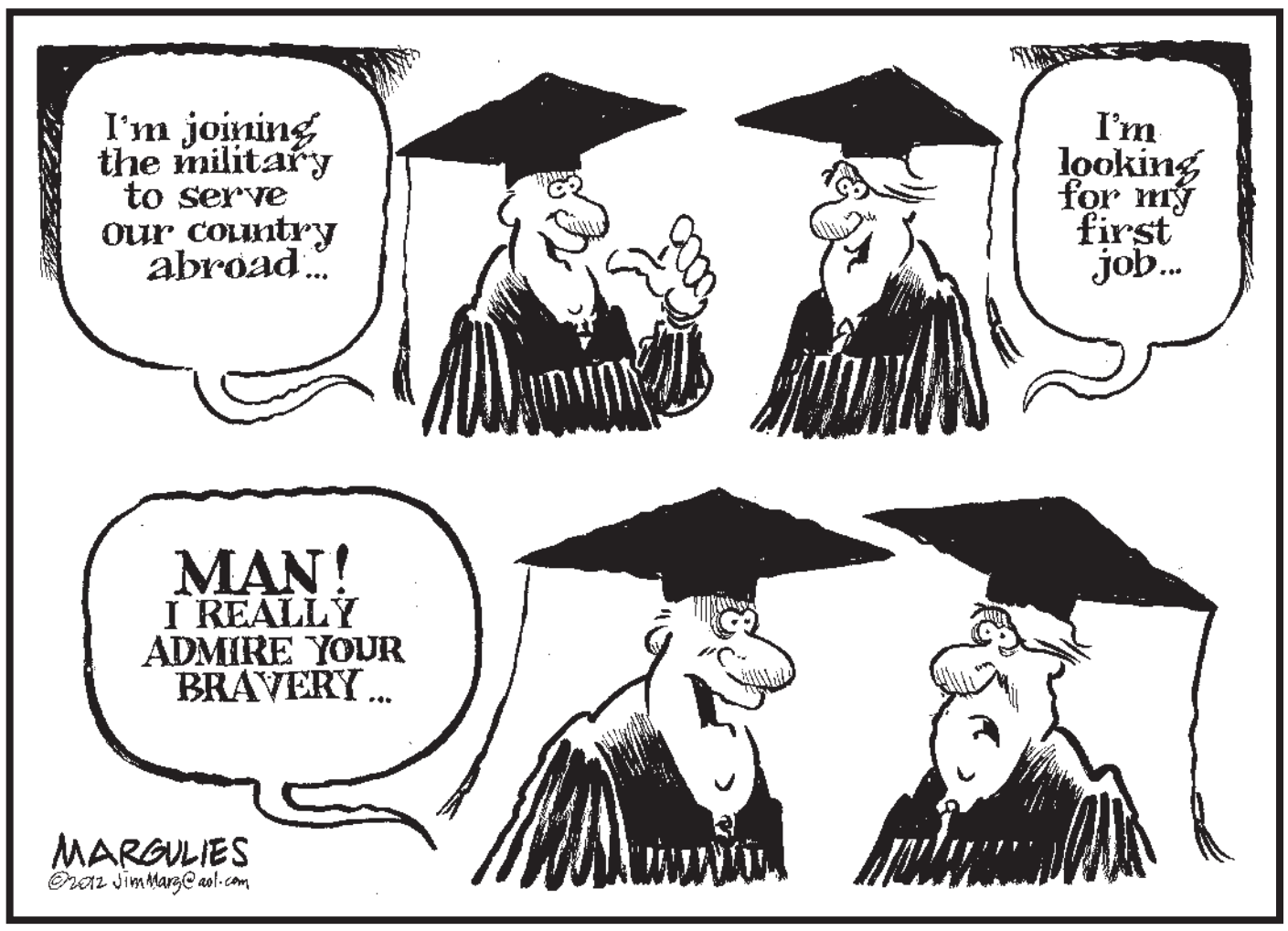
I'm joining the military to serve our country abroad...
I'm looking for my first job...
MAN! I REALLY ADMIRE YOUR BRAVERY...
MARGULIES
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At the pivot

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Balance and symmetry in some quarters is attained by reducing everyone to a common denominator, the one-size-fits-all syndrome. That is like attaining a "flatline" in medical science, which means "to die or be so near death that the display of one's vital signs shows a flat line rather than peaks and troughs."

We hear innumerable pleas for balance and symmetry. But like most other thought images, the picture of symmetry does not always come clear nor do our attempts to perform it produce all the wonders we expect. This may be because we do not realize the rather unsymmetrical process by which symmetry comes to be. For life gets on by jerks and bounds quite as much as it does by the gliding process.

Harmonious living is the mantra of China's current host culture. In fact, in government operations, decision-making, foreign policy, and anything conceptually propounded from Beijing these days goes by symphonic harmony.

We did, however, run into a sorry state of "lost in translation" in an airy idealized Himalayan version of equanimity. In encouraging students to expand their self-introductions from simply describing and stating their personal circumstances of birth, family, and education, we added guideline questions on their feelings, thoughts, and intended actions. One on feelings was, "What excites you?"

One of the female students somberly stood up and after clearing the objective data on her oral CV, she declared that she was a person of peace, and that nothing excites her at all! She said this with all seriousness that I wondered if she just avoided the question altogether, or there was something else I was not getting.

It turns out that excitement is equated with violent passion, and in the current Chinese parlance, passion is not an operative word. Add intensity and aggressiveness and one would not be caught claiming such a state of being at all.

One of the profound images in the Chinese pantheon of symbols is the *Taiji,* which was banned during the Cultural Revolution ('66-'76) for the superstition it represented in its religious use. It is slowly coming back into common usage; commercial signage has brought it back, though it is still hard to locate it in official symbols nor even in the pagoda temple stores.

What is very common in jewelry along the shopping malls of *Xiang Gang* (Hong Kong), *Aomen* (Macao), *Taibei* (Taipei) and Singapura are many variations of the yin-yang. Even the tattoo parlors of Saipan market the image, preferred by visiting Japanese, Korean, and Chinese clientele.

What the *Taiji* represents, to those who consciously abide by its primordial metaphor, is the fundamental stance of being at the pivot, in the hinge or at a turn, and in basketball, one foot is stationary and in place while the body spins.

There is no word for this stance among practitioners of kung fu, judo, and taekwando. The gesture is simply that of the clasped right fist under the left palm in a respecting bow, used in martial arts exhibitions. It is the beginning and the end points. That this gesture originated in the Shaolin temples of contemplation, meditation, and prayer makes the martial art discipline an act of defense rather than aggression.

Our Western dialectical stance echoes back to Aryan Zoroaster's dichotomy between the force of light confronting the state of darkness, a confrontational stance in which the eternal battle between light and darkness, good and evil, right and wrong, ensues forever. We latch on to the Hegelian image of thesis-antithesis clash that results in a synthesis as the major operating image in our thoughts and behavior. Thus, the Bush White House did not find any contradiction in rationalizing that for universal peace to abide, one must be in a perpetual state of war! Alas, our warriors have found cause in the drums of war, neglecting the corresponding and equally necessary songs of peace!

The excesses of the Cultural Revolution gave "excitement" an unwelcome connotation. The unplanned and unexpected turns unleashed by the notion of perpetual revolution were horrendous. What we do not want to acknowledge, however, is the entrenched power and position of the intelligentsia and illuminati, the resilience of old forms and practices from the assault of relevance and necessary change, and the window-dressing role relegated to women, youth, and peasants over the preponderance of the urban bourgeoisie!

So what has this got to do with the cost of rice on Saipan?

When I resided at a two-story apartment along As Lito, a high school teacher colleague was part of a martial art group meeting on the first floor, and it was always a delight to see young Turks whose energy would otherwise make them young thugs in the street; they exhibited discipline and method in their art. What was, however, disconcerting was the apparent "thugs" that enjoyed running the show where the discipline was more a branch of the Wehrmacht and its brown shirts. It was no surprise then to see the Aryan swastika among the symbols of the group.

The fundamental metaphor of Micronesia harkens to the *Om* and the *Yin-yang* of faraway places, before the Western dialectics engulfed our minds. This dialectic pervades our discourse (e.g., Reyes-Manglona tiff) and governance (e.g., horde v. Fitial).

Perhaps, it is time to get to the pivot!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China's secret? It owes Americans nearly $1 trillion

By RICHARD PARKER
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

China has a secret: It owes American investors hundreds of billions of dollars.

The Chinese government doesn't like to talk about it and the U.S. government doesn't want to raise it. But decades ago, Beijing defaulted on debt owed to Americans, as well as investors and governments around the world. In one case, it was paid. In the rest it was not. More than 20,000 American investors own this debt. The U.S. government may also own Chinese war debt, unpaid since World War II.

With the simple stroke of an executive proclamation, President Barack Obama can begin the process of addressing this issue. A 1930s-era law has established a quasi-public agency within the Securities and Exchange Commission, known as the Corporation of Foreign Securities Holders, which can arbitrate this dispute, much as a predecessor agency did for decades. China can both afford and benefit from this solution; it will afford goodwill at a time when relations between the world's two superpowers are strained.

The story begins nearly 100 years ago, in 1913, when the government of China began issuing bonds to foreign investors and governments for infrastructure work to modernize the country. As the country fell into civil war in 1927, paying these debts became increasingly difficult and the government fell into default. Even so, in April 1938, the Nationalist government of China began to issue U.S.-dollar denominated bonds to finance the war against Japan's brutal invasion.

Locked in a pitched battle for survival, the government issued these bonds into 1940. As part of its wartime financial aid, the U.S. government further provided a $500 million credit to China in March 1942, shipping gold there and helping to stabilize the currency. In return, it appears that the U.S. government redeemed some of these dollar-denominated bonds. But China doesn't appear to have repaid this debt either, according to State Department records, and the declaration of the People's Republic of China in 1949 ended decades of political, military and financial cooperation.

While successor governments are usually bound by the debts of predecessor governments, the new Communist government refused to pay any of these claims. The issue lay dormant for decades, just as the bilateral relationship did. Then, in 1979, as part of normalizing relations, Washington released government financial claims regarding the expropriation of American property and appears to have dropped the matter of the war debt entirely. However, it is one thing for government decision-makers to let go of government debt, however questionable that is.

And it is entirely another thing for individual citizens to press their claims.

Some U.S. investors tried to sue the Chinese government in the 1980s and 1990s. However, the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act makes it very hard for any U.S. citizen to sue a foreign government in U.S. courts because the law generally says that U.S. courts do not have jurisdiction.

The law usually only allows the jurisdiction of U.S. courts if a foreign government waives its immunity, commits a tort or seizes property. Recent additional exceptions have been added for terrorism. China lost an initial summary judgment for failing to appear in court but, with the urging of the U.S. State Department, later appeared in court and successfully argued that U.S. courts did not have jurisdiction.

Today, the Chinese bonds held by U.S. investors may be worth as much as $750 billion, according to Jonna Bianco, president of the American Bondholders Foundation, who estimates the value of bonds held by investors worldwide may be $10 trillion, including interest and penalties for default.

Over the years, congressional interest has been piqued. The late Rep. Henry Hyde convened hearings in 2003 and advocated that the bondholders press their case. In March, Republican Rep. Ken Calvert and Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, along with eight other members of Congress, asked the Government Accountability Office to look into the matter. In April, Rep. Gary Miller inquired with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

In general, governments do inherit the debt of their predecessors just as they inherit the assets of the nation.

Examples abound. An international arbitration panel found that post-revolutionary Iran needed to pay the United States for military aid in 1948. Post-apartheid South Africa has not repudiated debt incurred under the previous regime. In 2006, Great Britain paid the final installment on a World War II-era loan from the United States and Canada, and even sent a thank-you note. Russia has paid debt incurred under the tzars. One exception argued by governments is that in some cases a previous regime's debt is "odious." That is, the debt was incurred to enrich the regime or oppress the people.

Neither seems the case in China, which may be why it has never submitted to international adjudication. China, for its part, has not exactly disavowed the debt; it simply has selectively refused to pay it. Beijing paid British investors a miserly $39 million upon the takeover of Hong Kong in 1987. France has tried to press the issue, even at the World Trade Organization. Further, in Taiwanese press accounts Chinese officials have indicated, in fact, that they might pay the United States—as part of a negotiation over the final status of Taiwan.

Technically, this calls into question China's stellar credit ratings and those of its government-owned enterprises. But specifically, the U.S. government has a legal obligation to its citizens. The 1933 Securities Act established both the Foreign Bondholders Protective Council, under State and Treasury, and the Corporation of Foreign Security Holders, under the SEC, to get foreign governments to address debts owed to private U.S. investors. Housed in a Virginia suburb, the council in 47 instances settled the debts of foreign governments, including communist ones, to U.S. citizens. In 1975, the Polish government paid U.S. investors one-third the face value, or $8.5 million, of nine different series of bonds, all inherited from previous governments.

Indeed, President George W. Bush's counsel directed the bondholders to the council in 2001 but the council did nothing, most likely to keep from rocking the bilateral U.S.-China boat. Now, the council is shuttering its doors, as it has completed dozens of cases and no administration wanted to refer the Chinese case for fear of upsetting Beijing again. However, the Corporation of Foreign Security Holders is still on the books and represents the only chance for U.S. investors to be paid.

The reality is that a settlement could benefit everyone. Yes, it will be politically distasteful in Beijing. But in all likelihood, a settlement would likely be struck for a fraction of the face value of the bonds. Unlike 1949, China today has the ability to pay. It would be seen as good faith by Americans. And that, in turn, would help reassure us about China's increasingly important place in the world. There are simply too many other questions about about China's peculiar brand of state capitalism.

And besides, this is what economic superpowers do: They fulfill their obligations.

Richard Parker, a former Pentagon correspondent for Knight Ridder, is president of Parker Research in Austin, Texas. He is a regular contributor to McClatchy-Tribune. Researcher Emily Boyd contributed to this article.

Letters to the Editor

Stop giving hope

First, let me acknowledge the hard work Rabby Syed and members of the United Workers Movement have put into the initiative to improve the immigration status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI. Unfortunately, his efforts are flawed.

Rabby Syed, I do not understand what it is you don't understand about U.S. immigration. The U.S. immigration law, which has been in existence for more than 50 years, will not be amended by Congress just to give elevated immigration status to the 22,417 legal foreign workers in the CNMI. What about the 11 million legal foreign workers in the U.S.? Do you believe that Congress will acknowledge and grant elevated immigration status to 22, 417 legal foreign workers in the CNMI who do not pay taxes to the U.S. government during all the years they've lived in the CNMI? Please stop lying to the good foreign workers!

On the issue of labor unions in the United States helping address the immigration status of legal foreign workers in the CNMI, do you really think that labor unions in the U.S. will help foreign workers in the CNMI and forget the 11 million legal foreign workers they represent in the U.S., who have been working and paying taxes in the U.S. for more than 20 years? Please stop lying to the hardworking foreign workers in the CNMI just so they can continue to pay for your tickets to travel to the U.S.

Your actions continue to give hope to foreign workers in the CNMI and you know well enough that an improved immigration status for them will never happen. Please keep in mind that if the good congressman Kilili's bill to give special immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI was killed on arrival, then your hopes of working with labor unions in the U.S. is out of touch. Stop giving hope because you do not have the authority or power to do so!

The CNMI being U.S soil means that all legal foreign workers must line up and apply for improved immigration status. Long-term foreign workers must submit and pay for their application for green card and they must take and pass the tests administered to become U.S. citizens. Rabby Syed, this is not hard to understand. Stop giving hope for something that you cannot achieve. If your friend Doromal cannot do it, how can you?

Sid Kani
As Matuis, Saipan

Make your voice count

Dear fellow active employees: As you read this you are paying for: judges with $100,000 pensions; adopted grandchildren on survivors' benefits; retirees who have collected benefits since they were 32; Boston attorneys charging $475 an hour; and $3,163,495 for professional fees in 2011 alone.

Every two weeks you pay more than 11 percent of your paycheck into the Fund. With only two years and seven months left in the Fund, what left in it for you?

HB 17-226 allows you to take out your contributions regardless of years of service. Last Friday, the Fitial administration urged the Legislature to withdraw HB 17-226. Their reason? It would interfere with getting the NMI system into a deal with U.S. Social Security.

Premature? Social Security is far from a deal yet. And we need to see more details first. And, since it is our money, don't you feel we should be given a choice?

So far the Fund has kept active members out of the loop. No information session has been offered us, or any other intentional communication. Funny thing, seems like they owe us something—after all we are paying for everything. The message is clear—they don't really want you to know what's happening to your money. Unless you stand up and make your voice counted.

Please come to the Multi-Purpose Center on Tuesday, May 22, 6:30pm. A number of active employees will be there to speak, and try their best to answer your questions.

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

Thank you

Lat Saturday, May 19, 2012, I observed that many members of the community were cleaning the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field parking lot. As president of the Little League Baseball, Inc., I took some time to see who were doing this outstanding community contribution. To my surprise, I met Mr. Jerry Tan. He was calling for the pickup vehicle to get the bags of trash. I also had the opportunity to talk to some of the club's members.

On behalf of the board of directors and officers of the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc., the parents, managers, coaches, and most particularly the players, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation and thank you to the Saipan Badminton Club, in association with the CNMI International Badminton Association, for their continued effort to beautify Saipan.

To Mr. Jerry Tan and the members of your badminton club, no words can completely express our heartfelt appreciation and thank you for your effort to clean not just the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field but also some other areas around Saipan. Your contribution to this community deserves recognition. Thank you, *maraming salamat po,* and *gilisou*!

Juan I. Tenorio
Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼75°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

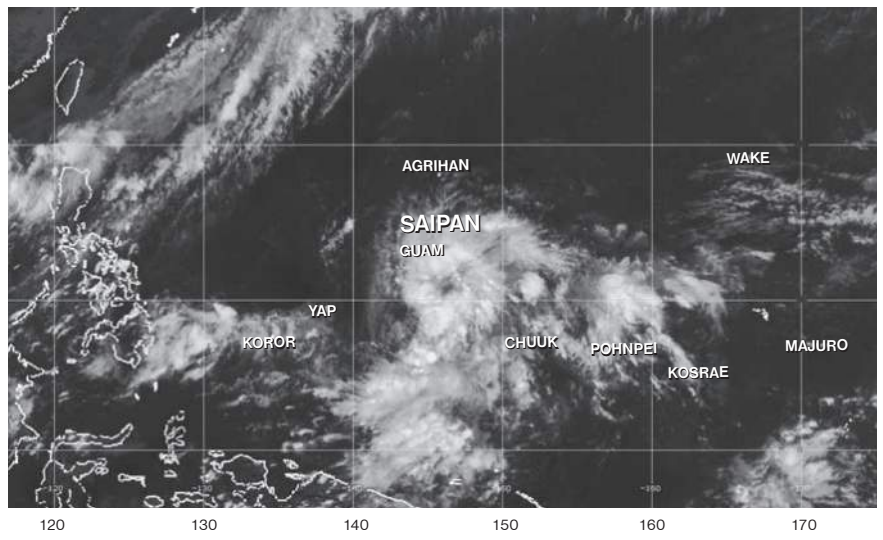
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲93	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼47
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼60
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲64	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼74
New York	Showers	▲65	▼61
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼58
Pusan	Windy	▲72	▼59
Rome	Rain	▲67	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲60	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼59
Tokyo	Rain	▲64	▼61
Washington, DC	Thunderhowers	▲75	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs from 25N136E to 20N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of Iwo To island along and up to 250 miles northwest of the front. A monsoon trough stretches eastward from 9N130E through a weak circulation near Koror at 8N138E then curves northeastward to end at another circulation south of Guam at 12N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Koror between 6N and 9N from 130E to 136E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over the Marianas around the developing circulation between 8N and 15N from 144E to 153E. This circulation is the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert. Convergent south and southwest winds south of the developing circulation are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 7N from 140E to 151E. Convergent southeast winds east of the developing circulation are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Pohnpei between 6N and 12N from 153E to 160E. An upper-level low centered east of Wake Island at 21N175E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Wake Island within 75 miles of the system center.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:29 AM	7:44 PM
Wednesday	7:18 AM	8:33 PM
Thursday	8:09 AM	9:20 PM
Friday	9:01 AM	10:06 PM
Saturday	9:53 AM	10:49 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMC's 32nd Commencement Exercise

Velma C. Deleon Guerrero, NMC Liberal Arts coordinator and faculty, delivers her keynote speech during the 32nd Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The graduates await their conferral proclamation at the Marianas High School Gymnasium on Saturday.

Claudia Pangelinan Palacios, who graduated with a degree in Elementary Education, receives her academic excellence award from Dr. Sharon Y. Hart as Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama and Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services look on.

Dr. Sharon Y. Hart receives the college mace as part of her investiture ceremony, which coincided with Saturday's graduation rites.

Nursing graduate Dyennina Ruth A. Diaz receives her student leadership award from NMC president Sharon Y. Hart and board chair Juan T. Lizama.

Raissa Belle A. Ferrer, Liberal Arts degree holder, accepts her academic excellence award.

Hilma Marie P. Castro receives her academic excellence award as she graduates from NMC's nursing program.

From left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama, student leadership awardee Patrick John M. Alepuyo, and college president Sharon Y. Hart.

Rosa R. Kaipat is bestowed the community service award.

Graduate Celina Kyna Sanchez Biado is presented with her academic excellence award.

Business

European leaders faces difficult search for growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—On paper at least, European leaders agree: They need stronger growth measures to help their economies expand out of their 2 1/2-year-old government debt crisis. Figuring out exactly what those new steps might be will be the hard part.

Persistent political divisions—neatly bridged by a Group of Eight summit statement that advocates a mix of austerity and growth promotion—and lack of money stand in the way of a comprehensive European growth strategy. Analysts said markets were likely to look past the verbal deal, with news about Greece's struggle to stay in the eurozone and an informal European Union summit Thursday in Brussels more likely to set the tone.

At Saturday's G-8 summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel—under urging from U.S. President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande—signed onto a statement that called for mixing painful cutbacks with growth-promoting measures to deal with a crisis that threatens the global economy.

The leaders warned that budget deficits have to come down. But they also acknowledged that an approach that's based mostly on austerity and longer-term reforms can't help countries out of recessions this year or next. That's the approach that has dominated the continent's German-led attack on the crisis since it erupted in late 2009, when Greece admitted its finances were broken.

"Our imperative is to promote growth and jobs," leaders said in their final declaration after Saturday's summit. While they "commit to fiscal responsibility," the leaders also supported spending on education and public works. They also said heavily indebted countries should have the chance to fix their budgets in ways that take into account how well their economies are doing at the moment and support "confidence and economic recovery."

They said little about specific steps and left exactly what to do up to individual countries, saying they recognize "the right measures are not the same for all of us."

The statement comes as markets look ahead to an informal European summit meeting Thursday, and to a June 17 election in Greece. An indecisive poll May 6 left no Greek party with enough votes to govern. A new government that rejects the austerity required under bankrupt Greece's (EURO)130 billion bailout from other eurozone countries could lead to it leaving the euro and spreading financial chaos.

Cornell University economist Eswar Prasad said the statement splits the difference among the leaders' positions and said Merkel, a chief advocate of austerity, had not altered her stance. The language "is cautious and guarded and leaves much room for difference of opinion so that each of the G-8 leaders can go back and say they got the other leaders to agree."

"Market expectations for the summit were quite low and those expectations have been met," he said. "I don't think this is going to make much difference for markets."

Asian stock markets struggled to make headway early Monday, as investors—already nervous about slowing growth in China and fears that turmoil in Europe could hit key export industries—saw little tangible progress stemming from the summit.

"Although G8 leaders made plenty of noises about combating the crisis and shifting focus towards growth, there was as usual little concrete news in terms of how they would do this," said analysts at Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong.

Oil rises near $92 ahead of key Iran nuclear talks

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $92 a barrel Monday in Asia ahead of talks this week aimed at avoiding a military conflict over Iran's nuclear program.

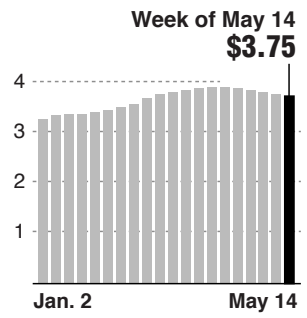
Benchmark oil for June delivery was up 43 cents to $91.90 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $1.08 to settle at $91.48 in New York on Friday.

Brent crude for July delivery was up 78 cents at $107.92 per barrel in London.

Iran plans to meet Wednesday in Baghdad with officials from the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany following initial discussions in April. Investors are concerned that a pre-emptive attack by Israel or the U.S. on Iran's nuclear facilities would likely pinch global crude supplies and send prices higher.

Pump prices

After rising to nearly $4 a gallon on average, U.S. gasoline prices are now falling. Average weekly price per gallon for regular gasoline:



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2012 MCT

World leaders have warned Iran that misusing its nuclear energy program to develop a nuclear weapon is unacceptable. Iran says it is enriching uranium only to create nuclear fuel.

"May is shaping up to be a key month for international efforts to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough on the Iranian nuclear program," Barclays said in a report.

On Saturday, the Group of Eight industrial nations said they were prepared to ensure the oil market is "fully and timely supplied" as sanctions aimed at limiting Iran's crude exports will likely take full effect in a few weeks.

Crude has slid from $106 earlier this month amid signs of slowing global economic growth. Oil prices have also fallen because tensions over Iran's nuclear program have eased since April's meeting between Iran and the six world powers.

In other energy trading, heating oil was up 2.4 cents at $2.86 per gallon and gasoline futures gained 1.8 cents at $2.84 per gallon. Natural gas fell 2.1 cents at $2.72 per 1,000 cubic feet.

AP

President Barack Obama lower left, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, lower right, French President Francois Hollande, upper left, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, talk as they pose for photo before a working dinner at Soldier Field during NATO Summit in Chicago, Sunday, May 20, 2012.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese company to buy US movie theater chain AMC

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese conglomerate announced Monday it will buy U.S. cinema chain AMC Entertainment Holdings for $2.6 billion to create the world's biggest movie theater operator. Dalian Wanda Group Co.'s purchase reflects the growing global ambitions of China's cash-rich major companies and an increasing trend for deals that acquire foreign skills and brands to speed their expansion. Wanda said it is willing to invest an additional $500 million to fund AMC's expansion. AMC headquarters will remain in the Kansas City area and day-to-day operations and management will remain unchanged. "We support AMC becoming bigger, not only in the United States but in the global market," said Wanda Chairman Wong Jianlin.

Reports: Nasdaq 'embarrassed' at Facebook delay

NEW YORK (AP)—The CEO of the Nasdaq stock exchange says it is "humbly embarrassed" by its bungling of Facebook's hugely anticipated debut as a public company on Friday. Robert Greifeld tells news media there's no indication the delay contributed to the underwhelming performance of Facebook's stock, which ended at $38.23—23 cents above where it began. Facebook's stock was expected to start trading at 11 a.m. but didn't open until 11:32 a.m., and some investors didn't learn for hours whether their orders went through. Greifeld said late order cancellations caused a glitch, according to reports published Sunday. He said Nasdaq's board met Saturday and plans to change its IPO auction process.

Yahoo to sell half of its Alibaba stake for $7.1B

HONG KONG (AP)—Yahoo Inc. has agreed to sell half of its 40 percent stake in Chinese e-commerce group Alibaba for about $7.1 billion, securing a financial lifeline for the struggling U.S. Internet company. The deal, announced Sunday in the U.S., will see Alibaba Group buying back the stake from Yahoo Inc. for $6.3 billion cash and up to $800 million of Alibaba preference shares. The announcement caps at least a year of on-and-off talks as Yahoo tried to sell its stake. Money from the sale might help Yahoo appease its shareholders by giving it the ability to pay dividends, make acquisitions or buy back its own shares. The two companies also have an agreement for Yahoo to sell the remainder of its Alibaba stake in stages later on.

Pakistan blocks Twitter over contentious tweets

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan blocked the social networking website Twitter for several hours because it refused to remove tweets considered offensive to Islam, said one of the country's top telecommunications officials.

The tweets were promoting a competition on Facebook to post images of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, said Mohammad Yaseen, chairman of the Pakistan Telecommunication's Authority. Many Muslims regard depictions of the prophet, even favorable ones, as blasphemous.

The government restored access to Twitter before midnight Sunday, about eight hours after it initially blocked access, possibly because of public criticism it received for its censorship.

Twitter spokesman Gabriel Stricker said the company had not taken down any tweets or made any other changes before Pakistan stopped blocking the site.

Yaseen said Sunday afternoon that Pakistan's Ministry of Information Technology had ordered the telecommunications authority to block Twitter because the company refused to remove the offending tweets.

The ministry informed Yaseen to restore access to Twitter Sunday evening, but he did not know what led to the decision.

Yaseen said Facebook had agreed to address Pakistan's concern about the competition.

Facebook confirmed in a written statement that it blocked access to the content in Pakistan. The site noted that it occasionally restricts content when it is illegal or offensive out of respect for local laws and culture.

A top court in Pakistan ordered a ban on Facebook in 2010 amid anger over a similar competition. The ban was lifted about two weeks later, after Facebook blocked the particular page in Pakistan. The Pakistani government said at the time that it would continue to monitor other major websites for anti-Islamic links and content.

Even when Twitter was blocked Sunday, many people based in Pakistan continued to use the website by employing programs that disguise the user's location. There was widespread criticism of the government's action by those on Twitter, who tend to be more liberal than average Pakistanis.

"Another cheap moral stunt by Pakistan," tweeted liberal Pakistani columnist Nadeem Paracha.

The 2010 Facebook controversy sparked many in Pakistan's liberal elite to question why Pakistanis could not be entrusted to decide for themselves whether or not to look at a website. Some observers noted that Pakistan had gone further than several other Muslim countries by banning Facebook, and said it showed the rise of conservative Islam in the country.

There were a handful of protests against Facebook back in 2010, often organized by student members of radical Islamic groups. Some of the protesters carried signs advocating holy war against the website for allowing the competition page to be posted in the first place.

Nation

Protesters march through Chicago to NATO summit

CHICAGO (AP)—Thousands of protesters marched through downtown Chicago on Sunday in one of the city's largest demonstrations in years, airing grievances about war, climate change and a wide range of other complaints as world leaders assembled for a NATO summit.

The protest, which for months had stirred worries about violence in the streets, drew together a broad assortment of participants, including peace activists joining with war veterans and people more focused on economic inequality. But the diversity of opinions also sowed doubts about whether there were too many messages to be effective.

And some of the most enduring images of the event were likely to be from the end—when a small group of demonstrators clashed with a line of police who tried to keep them from the lakeside convention center where President Barack Obama was hosting the gathering.

The protesters tried to move east toward McCormick Place, with some hurling sticks and bottles at police. Officers responded by swinging their batons. The two sides were locked in a standoff for nearly two hours, with police blocking the protesters' path and the crowd refusing to leave. Some protesters had blood streaming down their faces.

Authorities were seen making arrests one by one and leading individual demonstrators away in handcuffs.

After the clash near McCormick Place, Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said at a news conference that the protests of the NATO Summit resulted in 45 people being arrested and four officers suffering injuries—one from a stab wound in the leg. Those numbers seemed certain to rise as new clashes erupted later in the night.

Hundreds of protesters gathered late Sunday night near the Art Institute of Chicago as first lady Michelle Obama hosted a dinner for spouses of NATO leaders inside. At least 100 Chicago police officers in riot gear were also at the scene.

AP

Demonstrators make a futile attempt to stop a Chicago police officer from detaining a protester during this weekend's NATO summit in Chicago Sunday, May 20, 2012 in Chicago.

Earlier at the protest near McCormick Place, Esther Westlake, a recent graduate of Northeastern Illinois University, marveled at the size of the crowd. She said she had been involved in marches protesting the Iraq War in Chicago but never one this big.

"It's crazy. There's so many people here," she said. "Having NATO in town is kind of exciting."

But she wondered whether the political agendas of the protesters were too unfocused to get diplomats' attention.

"It seems like there's so many messages and people aren't really sure what they want to get accomplished," Westlake said. "People just need to figure out what their argument is going to be."

She worried that some protesters participated simply "to do stupid things" and cause trouble.

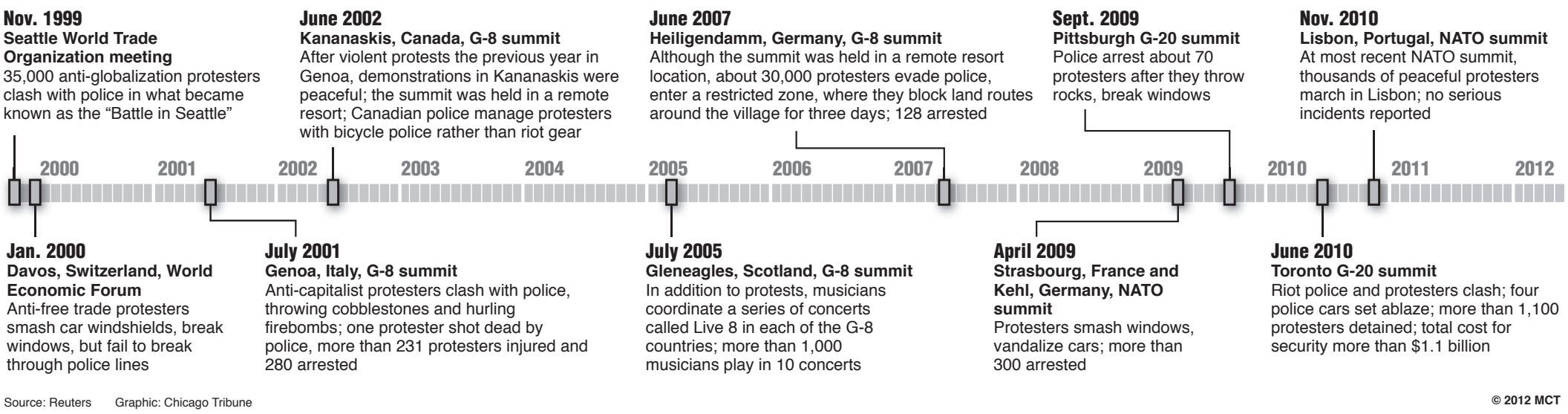
Some participants called for the dissolution of NATO, the 63-year-old military alliance that is holding its 25th formal meeting in Chicago. It is the first time the summit has been held in a U.S. city other than Washington.

Diplomats at the meeting planned to discuss the war in Afghanistan, European missile defense and other international security matters.

"Basically NATO is used to keep the poor poor and the rich rich," said John Schraufnagel, who traveled from Minneapolis to Chicago for the march. Since the end of the Cold War, he said, the alliance has become "the enforcement arm of the ruling 1 percent, of the capitalist 1 percent."

Protests at world summits

Meetings of world organizations can draw thousands of protesters and have, in some instances, turned violent.



Jan. 2000
Davos, Switzerland, World Economic Forum
Anti-free trade protesters smash car windshields, break windows, but fail to break through police lines

July 2001
Genoa, Italy, G-8 summit
Anti-capitalist protesters clash with police, throwing cobblestones and hurling firebombs; one protester shot dead by police, more than 231 protesters injured and 280 arrested

Nov. 1999
Seattle World Trade Organization meeting
35,000 anti-globalization protesters clash with police in what became known as the "Battle in Seattle"

June 2002
Kananaskis, Canada, G-8 summit
After violent protests the previous year in Genoa, demonstrations in Kananaskis were peaceful; the summit was held in a remote resort; Canadian police manage protesters with bicycle police rather than riot gear

July 2005
Gleneagles, Scotland, G-8 summit
In addition to protests, musicians coordinate a series of concerts called Live 8 in each of the G-8 countries; more than 1,000 musicians play in 10 concerts

June 2007
Heiligendamm, Germany, G-8 summit
Although the summit was held in a remote resort location, about 30,000 protesters evade police, enter a restricted zone, where they block land routes around the village for three days; 128 arrested

April 2009
Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany, NATO summit
Protesters smash windows, vandalize cars; more than 300 arrested

Sept. 2009
Pittsburgh G-20 summit
Police arrest about 70 protesters after they throw rocks, break windows

June 2010
Toronto G-20 summit
Riot police and protesters clash; four police cars set ablaze; more than 1,100 protesters detained; total cost for security more than $1.1 billion

Nov. 2010
Lisbon, Portugal, NATO summit
At most recent NATO summit, thousands of peaceful protesters march in Lisbon; no serious incidents reported

Source: Reuters Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Study: 2,000 convicted then exonerated in 23 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 2,000 people who were falsely convicted of serious crimes have been exonerated in the United States in the past 23 years, according to a new archive compiled at two universities.

There is no official record-keeping system for exonerations of convicted criminals in the country, so academics set one up. The new national registry, or database, painstakingly assembled by the University of Michigan Law School and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law, is the most complete list of exonerations ever compiled.

The database compiled and analyzed by the researchers contains information on 873 exonerations for which they have the most detailed evidence. The researchers are aware of nearly 1,200 other exonerations, for which they have less data.

They found that those 873 exonerated defendants spent a combined total of more than 10,000 years in prison, an average of more than 11 years each. Nine out of 10 of them are men and half are African-American.

Nearly half of the 873 exonerations were homicide cases, including 101 death sentences. Over one-third of the cases were sexual assaults.

DNA evidence led to exoneration in nearly one-third of the 416 homicides and in nearly two-thirds of the 305 sexual assaults.

Researchers estimate the total number of felony convictions in the United States is nearly a million a year.

The overall registry/list begins at the start of 1989. It gives an unprecedented view of the scope of the problem of wrongful convictions in the United States and the figure of more than 2,000 exonerations "is a good start," said Rob Warden, executive director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions.

"We know there are many more that we haven't found," added University of Michigan law professor Samuel Gross, the editor of the newly opened National Registry of Exonerations.

Counties such as San Bernardino in California and Bexar County in Texas are heavily populated, yet seemingly have no exonerations, a circumstance that the academics say cannot possibly be correct.

The registry excludes at least 1,170 additional defendants. Their convictions were thrown out starting in 1995 amid the periodic exposures of 13 major police scandals around the country. In all the cases, police officers fabricated crimes, usually by planting drugs or guns on innocent defendants.

Regarding the 1,170 additional defendants who were left out of the registry, "we have only sketchy information about most of these cases," the report said. "Some of these group exonerations are well known; most are comparatively obscure. We began to notice them by accident, as a byproduct of searches for individual cases."

In half of the 873 exonerations studied in detail, the most common factor leading to false convictions was perjured testimony or false accusations. Forty-three percent of the cases involved mistaken eyewitness identification, and 24 percent of the cases involved false or misleading forensic evidence.

ACROSS THE NATION

Miss. prison riot leaves guard dead, 6 hurt

BRANDON, Miss. (AP)—Authorities say a riot at a privately run federal prison in southwest Mississippi that left one guard dead and five other correctional officers and an inmate injured has been brought under control. Prison spokeswoman Emilee Beach said the uprising at the Adams County facility ended late Sunday night, hours after it started. Adams County Sheriff Chuck Mayfield said in a statement early Monday that there were at least two dozen hostages being held at one time. He said prison personnel have "gained total control" of the complex. Coroner James Lee confirmed that a prison guard died, but he said he could not provide any other details.

Police: 45 arrested, 4 officers hurt in protests

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy says the protests of the NATO Summit resulted in 45 people being arrested and four officers suffering injuries—one from a stab wound in the leg. McCarthy talked about the arrests and injuries at a press briefing Sunday night, hours after officers and protesters clashed near McCormick Place, the site of the summit. No details on the arrests were immediately available, but it appeared from the clashes that played out in front of television cameras that many of those arrested were taken into custody after refusing a police order to disperse.

3 charged in carjacking of pastor Marvin Winans

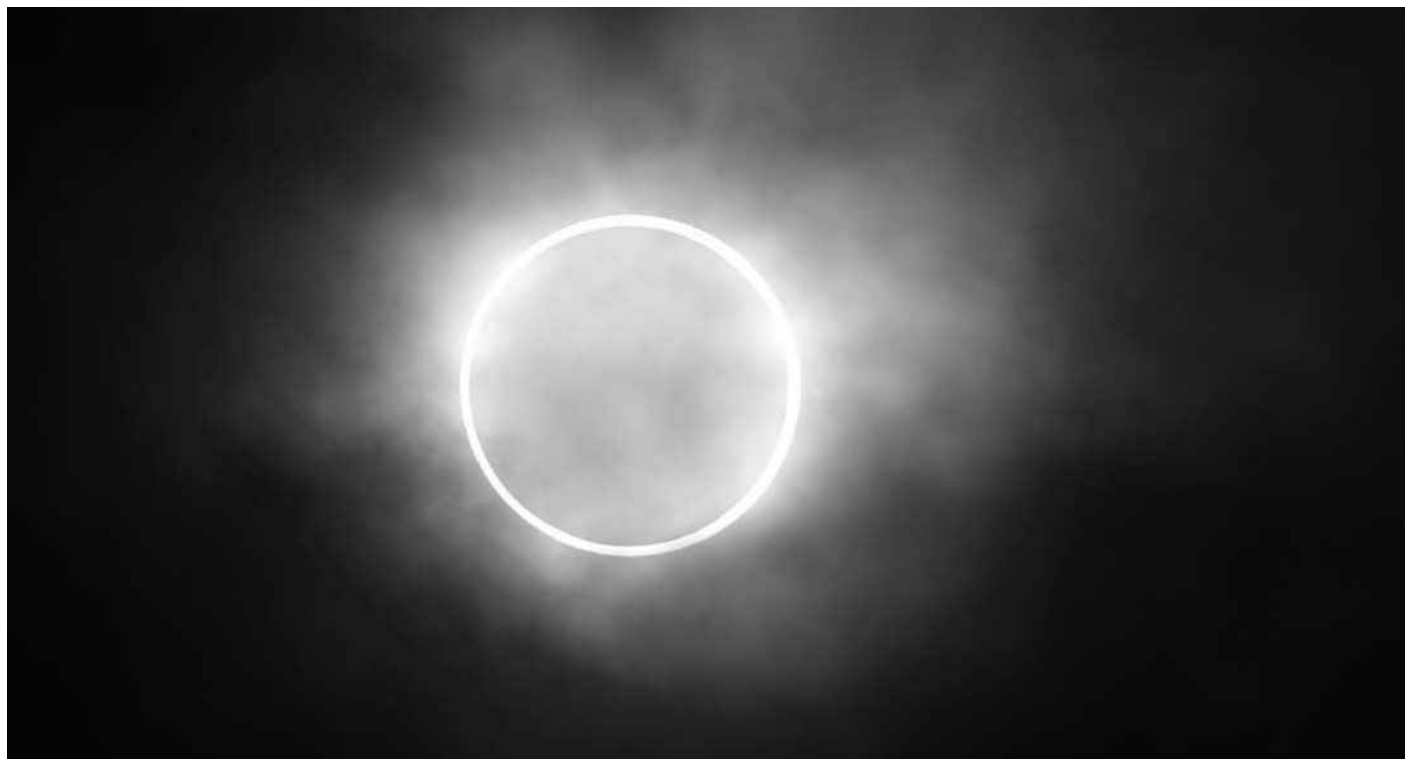
DETROIT (AP)—Three young men were arraigned Sunday in the assault and carjacking of popular Detroit pastor and gospel singing icon Marvin Winans. The office of Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy identified the suspects as Detroit residents Montoya Givens and Christopher Moorehead, both 20, and Brian K. Young, 18, of Macomb County's Clinton Township. They are charged with carjacking, unarmed robbery and conspiracy, said Maria Miller, Worthy's spokeswoman. The charges carry up to life in prison. Winans, 54, was attacked Wednesday afternoon while pumping gas in Detroit. The robbers took his sport utility vehicle, Rolex watch, cash and credit cards.

4 people found dead after boat crash on Iowa river

The bodies of four people missing after a boat crash on the Mississippi River in Iowa were found Sunday within 100 yards of the crash site, according to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. None was wearing a life vest. DNR officer Paul Kay said three men and a woman, all believed to be in their 20s, were killed. Their names have not been released, pending notification of their families. Along with the four killed, eight people were injured when two johnboats—flat-bottomed boats often made of aluminum—crashed in the O'Connell Slough area of the river, where the water is 10 to 12 feet deep, before 2 a.m. Saturday. One of the boats was carrying 11 people; the other had a single passenger.

Asia

Millions look skyward as eclipse crosses Asia, US



AP

The moon slides across the sun, showing a blazing halo of light, during an annular eclipse at a waterfront park in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Monday, May 21, 2012.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Millions in Asia and the western United States watched as a rare "ring of fire" eclipse crossed their skies.

The annular eclipse, in which the moon passes in front of the sun leaving only a golden ring around its edges, was visible to wide areas across Asia early Monday. It then moved across the Pacific and was also seen in parts of the western United States Sunday afternoon.

Viewing parties were held in Reno, Nev., Oakland, Calif., and elsewhere. In some parts of the U.S., special camera filters for taking photographs have been sold out for weeks in anticipation of the big event.

People from Colorado, Oklahoma and as far away as Canada traveled to Albuquerque to enjoy one of the best vantage points.

Members of the crowd smiled and cheered and children yelled with excitement as the moon crossed the sun and the blazing halo of light began to form. Eventually, the moon centered and covered 96 percent of the sun.

"That's got to be the prettiest thing I've ever seen," said Brent Veltri of Salida, Colo.

Albuquerque city officials had urged residents to go to organized events or watch one of the many live webcasts to avoid damaging their eyes.

The eclipse cannot be viewed with the naked eye or even sunglasses. And solar glasses, which make the sun look like a huge orange disc, are a rare commodity in communities along the eclipse's path.

In Japan, "eclipse tours" were arranged at schools and parks, on pleasure boats and even private airplanes. Similar events were held in China and Taiwan as well, with skywatchers warned to protect their eyes.

The eclipse was broadcast live on TV in Tokyo, where such an eclipse hasn't been visible since 1839. Japanese TV crews watched from the top of Mount Fuji and even staked out a zoo south of Tokyo to capture the reaction of the chimpanzees—who didn't seem to notice.

A light rain fell on Tokyo as the eclipse began, but the clouds thinned as it reached its peak, providing near perfect conditions.

"It was a very mysterious sight," said Kaori Sasaki, who joined a crowd in downtown Tokyo to watch the event. "I've never seen anything like it."

At the Taipei Astronomical Museum in Taiwan, the spectacle emerged from dark clouds for only about 30 seconds. But the view was nearly perfect against Manila's orange skies.

"It's amazing. We do this for the awe (and) it has not disappointed. I am awed, literally floored," said astronomical hobbyist Garry Andreassen, whose long camera lenses were lined up with those of about 10 other gazers in a downtown Manila park.

Hong Kong skywatchers weren't so lucky.

Several hundred people gathered along the Kowloon waterfront on Hong Kong's famed Victoria Harbor, most of them students or commuters on their way to work. The eclipse was already underway as the sun began to rise, but heavy clouds obstructed the view.

The eclipse followed a narrow 8,500-mile path for 3 1/2 hours. The ring phenomenon lasted about five minutes, depending on location. People outside the narrow band for prime viewing saw a partial eclipse.

"Ring of Fire" eclipses are not as dramatic as a total eclipse, when the disk of the sun is entirely blocked by the moon. The moon is too far from Earth and appears too small in the sky to blot out the sun completely.

Doctors and education officials have warned of eye injuries from improper viewing. Before the event started, Japan's Education Minister Hirofumi Hirano demonstrated how to use eclipse glasses in a televised news conference.

Police also cautioned against traffic accidents—warning drivers to keep their eyes on the road.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea presses NKorea to refrain from provocations

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's top nuclear negotiator says a different path will open for North Korea if it refrains from provocations. Lim Sung-nam spoke before meeting with U.S. and Japanese envoys Monday to discuss North Korea. The meeting comes weeks after its failed long-range rocket launch and amid worries Pyongyang is preparing for a third nuclear test. Lim says the international community has sent North Korea a clear message that it should refrain from additional provocations.

China fishermen detained by NKorean boat released

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese Embassy in North Korea says Chinese fishermen detained there after their boats were hijacked have been released. Chinese media said last week that a North Korean boat hijacked three boats with 29 Chinese fishermen on board on May 8. The media did not say who the captors were but said they demanded $190,000 for the fishermen's release. A statement on the Chinese Embassy website Sunday said that vessels and crew have been freed and are on their way back to China. It did not mention if a payment was made. No other details were provided.

Bangladesh opposition protests jailed activists

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Hundreds of opposition protesters rallied Sunday in Bangladesh's capital to demand that authorities release 33 of their leaders and find a missing opposition official. Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia led the protest in downtown Dhaka as the activists staged a six-hour symbolic hunger strike. The protesters chanted "Down with the autocratic government" and "Free our leaders." Similar protests took place in all major cities and towns across the country Sunday. The 18-party opposition alliance led by Zia accuses the government of manipulating courts and of abducting one of its leaders, Elias Ali. The government denies the allegations.

Nepal police detain protesters enforcing strike

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—An official says police in Nepal have clashed with protesters who were violently enforcing a general strike and detained at least 52. Police spokesman Binod Singh says the protesters attacked and burned at least two dozen vehicles that were defying Sunday's general strike called by the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities. The group called for businesses to close and vehicles to stay off the streets to support their demand that states proposed in the new constitution be determined on the basis of ethnic groups. The Federation of Nepalese Journalists said it had reports that the protesters also attacked journalists.

Flash flood kills 19 in Afghanistan; many missing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Flood waters ravaged a provincial capital in northern Afghanistan, killing at least 19 people and destroying hundreds of homes, officials said Sunday.

About 60 other people were missing and rescuers were looking for them across Sar-e-Pul, the capital of a province with the same name, said Sayed Faizullah Sadat, the national disaster director in the area.

Northern Afghanistan gets hit nearly every spring by flash flooding from heavy rains and snow melting off the mountains.

Sadat said 1,000 houses were destroyed and 10,000 people were forced to find shelter in mosques, schools and a teacher-training center.

"Most of these families have lost their houses—all their property, their livelihoods," he said.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, the water rose to 1.5 meters on Saturday during the peak of the flooding.

The office said four humanitarian assessment teams tried to get to the city on Saturday, but could not access the area.

"Most of the roads are blocked by the flooding," said Sayed Jahangir, deputy provincial police chief. "Hundreds of houses have been destroyed. We were able to move people to different places that we think will be safe."

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority reported that several hundred people were rescued from rooftops.

Flash flooding also has been reported in northern Takhar province.

Mustafa Rasouli, a spokesman for the province, said heavy rains continued Sunday in the area where flash flooding killed two people. He said 3,000 animals, including sheep and cows also were killed, and about 1,000 hectares of farm land had been destroyed in the provincial capital of Taloqan and six other districts.

"Two thousand houses have been partially or completely destroyed," he said.

Myanmar: New deal to end fighting with Shan rebels

KENGTUNG, Myanmar (AP)—A Myanmar negotiator says ethnic Shan rebels have agreed in a second round of talks to end fighting with army troops in the country's east, the latest reported deal between the new reformist government and various ethnic separatist movements.

Negotiator Aung Min, who is also the country's railway minister, said he discussed enforcing a December cease-fire and eradicating drugs in eastern Myanmar in talks with Yawd Serk, leader of the Shan State Army (South).

He told reporters Saturday night after the talks in the Shan State capital, Kengtung, that recent clashes were a result of misunderstanding over the firing of warning shots.

"After detailed negotiations today, there will be no more fighting," Aung Min said.

Myanmar President Thein Sein's government has reached cease-fires with several ethnic rebel groups, but fierce fighting continues with the Kachin minority in northern Myanmar, with whom peace talks have so far failed.

The state-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper on Sunday reported that the Kachin guerrillas had blown up several electricity pylons on Friday. "So, electric power supply will be reduced for a while across the nation as personnel concerned are trying to repair the towers as possibly quick as they can," it said.

Much of Myanmar has long suffered from frequent power shortages, due to resource mismanagement that predates the fighting.

The state press has recently been highlighting such attacks in an apparent propaganda ploy to pin the blame on the Kachin for the continuing fighting. Thein Sein late last year issued an order for the army to cease its offensive against the Kachin, but it has not been effective.

Since taking office last year as a military-backed but elected president, Thein Sein has moved to roll back many of the repressive actions of the military regimes that preceded him.

His efforts have included reconciliation with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her pro-democracy movement and also the long-running problem of ethnic rebellions.

Myanmar's ethnic minorities, who are clustered mostly in border areas, have long sought greater autonomy.

World

Convicted Lockerbie bomber dies of cancer in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—He was the embodiment of one of modern Libya's darkest chapters—a man synonymous with horrifying scenes of wreckage, broken families and a plane that fell out of the sky a generation ago. His name, Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, was little known compared to the single word that his deeds represented: Lockerbie.

Seven months after his patron dictator Moammar Gadhafi was slain in a revolution that began a new chapter for his homeland, al-Megrahi died Sunday of cancer, leaving behind countless unanswered questions about the midair attack in 1988 that blew up Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland. All 259 people on board—mostly Americans—and 11 on the ground were killed.

"I am an innocent man," al-Megrahi insisted, most recently in his final interview in December, in the final stages of prostate cancer. "I am about to die and I ask now to be left in peace with my family."

But his death at age 60 leaves no peace for families who still question his guilt and whether others in one of history's deadliest terror attacks went unpunished. Scotland's government said it would continue to investigate the bombing even after al-Megrahi's death.

"He holds the key to what actually took place in Pan Am 103," said Bert Ammerman, whose brother was killed in the bombing. "He knows what other individuals were involved and, more importantly, what other countries were involved."

His attorneys had argued that the Libyan intelligence officer was scapegoated to protect the real culprits: Palestinians acting on the behest of Iran.

Al-Megrahi's death comes about three years after Scottish authorities released him on humanitarian grounds, to the outrage of victims' relatives. At the time, doctors predicted he had only three months to live after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Anger over his release was further stoked by the hero's welcome he received on his arrival in Libya—and by subsequent accusations that London had sought his release to protect business interests in oil-rich Libya. Britain and Scotland denied the allegations.

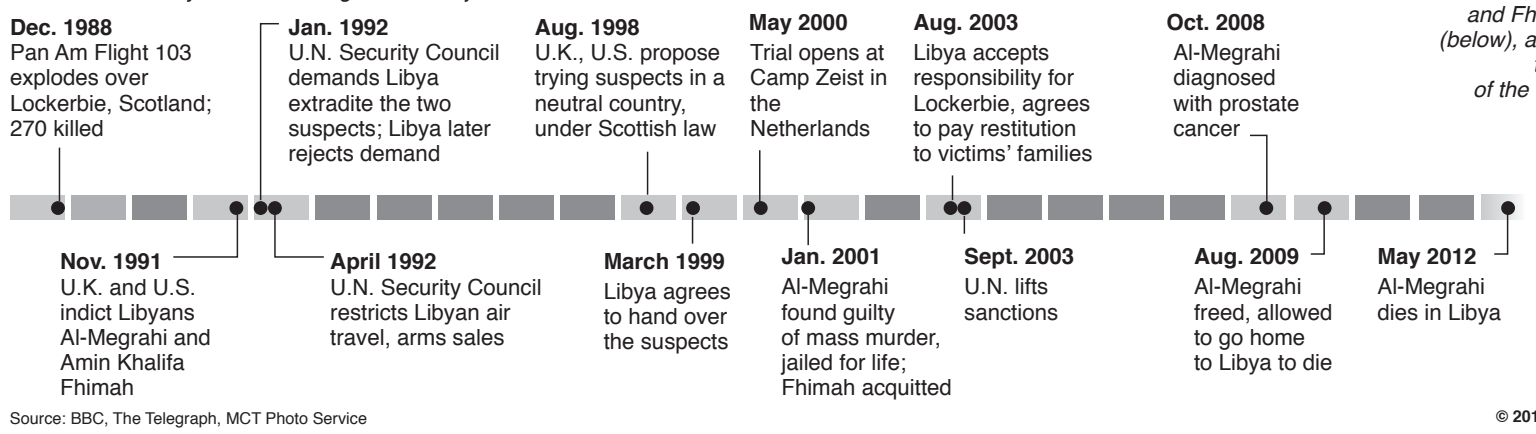
In the months ahead of his release, Tripoli put pressure on Britain, warning that if the ailing al-Megrahi died in a Scottish prison, all British commercial activity in Libya would be cut off and a wave of demonstrations would erupt outside British embassies, according to leaked U.S. diplomatic memos. The Libyans even implied "that the welfare of U.K. diplomats and citizens in Libya would be at risk," the memos say.

Al-Megrahi kept a strict silence after his return, living in the family villa surrounded by high walls in a posh Tripoli neighborhood, mostly bedridden or taking a few steps with a cane. Libyan authorities sealed him off from public access, and on Sunday scores of fellow clan members surrounded his residence to keep the media away.

Al-Megrahi's son, Khaled al-Megrahi, confirmed that he died in Tripoli in a telephone interview but hung up before giving more details. Saad Nasser al-Megrahi, a relative and a member of the ruling National Transitional Council, said al-Megrahi's health had deteriorated in recent days and said he died of cancer-related complications.

Lockerbie bomber dies in Libya

Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the only person convicted over the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, died almost three years after being freed from jail in Scotland.


Dec. 1988
Pan Am Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland; 270 killed
Nov. 1991
U.K. and U.S. indict Libyans Al-Megrahi and Amin Khalifa Fhimah
Jan. 1992
U.N. Security Council demands Libya extradite the two suspects; Libya later rejects demand
April 1992
U.N. Security Council restricts Libyan air travel, arms sales
Aug. 1998
U.K., U.S. propose trying suspects in a neutral country, under Scottish law
March 1999
Libya agrees to hand over the suspects
May 2000
Trial opens at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands
Jan. 2001
Al-Megrahi found guilty of mass murder, jailed for life; Fhimah acquitted
Aug. 2003
Libya accepts responsibility for Lockerbie, agrees to pay restitution to victims' families
Sept. 2003
U.N. lifts sanctions
Oct. 2008
Al-Megrahi diagnosed with prostate cancer
Aug. 2009
Al-Megrahi freed, allowed to go home to Libya to die
May 2012
Al-Megrahi dies in Libya

Source: BBC, The Telegraph, MCT Photo Service

Libyan intelligence officials, Al-Megrahi and Fhimah (below), at the time of the trial

© 2012 MCT

Gunbattle in Beirut amid fears of Syria spillover

BEIRUT (AP)—Gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns early Monday in intense street battles in the Lebanese capital, wounding six people as fears mounted that the conflict in neighboring Syria was bleeding across the border.

The fighting appeared to be among the worst clashes in Beirut since 2008. The clashes erupted hours after an anti-Syrian cleric and his bodyguard were shot dead in northern Lebanon.

Lebanon and Syria share a complex web of political and sectarian ties and rivalries, which are easily enflamed. Last week, clashes sparked by the Syrian crisis killed at least eight people and wounded dozens in the northern city of Tripoli.

The revolt in Syria began 15 months ago, and there are fears the unrest will lead to a regional conflagration that could draw in neighboring countries. The U.N. estimates the conflict has killed more than 9,000 people since March 2011.

Sunday's fighting in Beirut pitted pro- and anti-Syrian Sunni groups, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene in the Mazraa district. Gunmen were roaming the streets and several roads were blocked.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said gunmen were using "bombs and machine guns" and that six people were wounded.

The apparent trigger for the fighting was the shooting death of Sunni cleric Sheik Ahmed Abdul-Wahid and his bodyguard in northern Lebanon. The circumstances surrounding their deaths remain unclear but the NNA said they appeared to have been killed by soldiers after their convoy failed to stop at an army checkpoint.

The Lebanese army issued a statement, saying it deeply regretted the incident and that a committee will investigate.

The fighting underscores how the bloodshed in Syria, where President Bashar Assad's regime is cracking down on an uprising against his rule, is enflaming emotions in its tiny neighbor Lebanon. Lebanon has a fragile political faultline precisely over the issue of Syria.

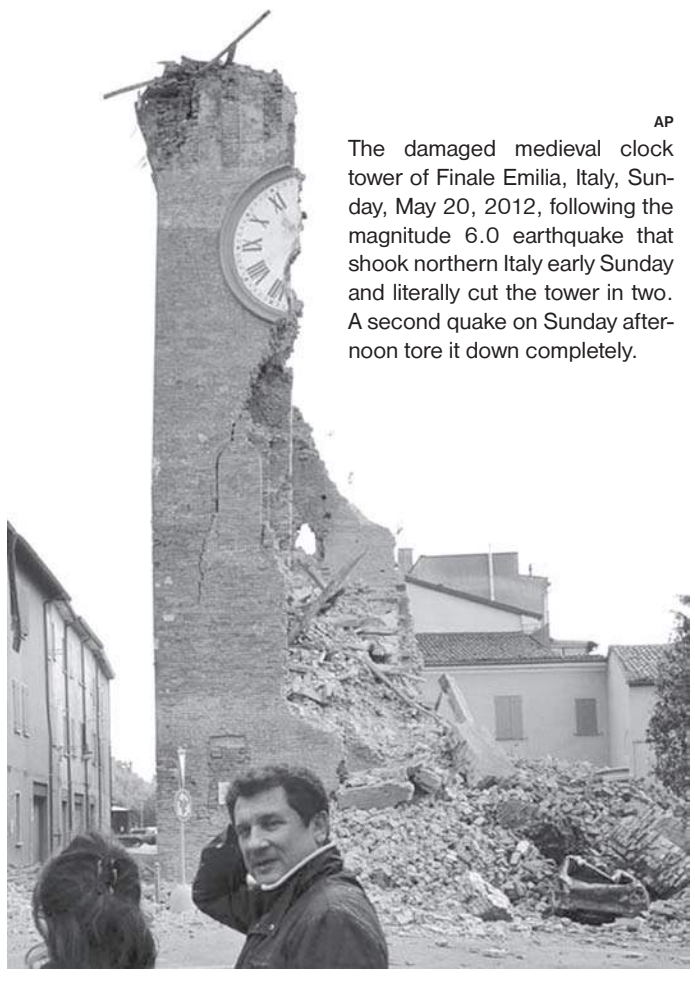
There is an array of diehard pro-Syrian Lebanese parties and politicians, as well as support for the regime on the street level. There is an equally deep hatred of Assad among other Lebanese who fear Damascus is still calling the shots here. The two sides are the legacy of Syria's virtual rule over Lebanon from 1976 to 2005 and its continued influence since.

Strong quake kills 4 in Italy cheese region

SANT'AGOSTINO DI FERRARA, Italy (AP)—A magnitude-6.0 earthquake shook several small towns in northeast Italy, killing four people, knocking down a clock tower and other centuries-old buildings and causing millions in losses to the region known for making Parmesan cheese.

The quake struck at 4:04 a.m. Sunday, with its epicenter about 35 kilometers (22 miles) north of Bologna at a relatively shallow depth of 5 kilometers (3.2 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said. Civil protection agency official Adriano Gumina described it as the worst quake to hit the region since the 1300s.

The four people killed were factory workers on the overnight shift when their buildings, in three separate locations, collapsed, agency chief Franco Gabrielli said, In addition, he said, two women died—apparently of heart attacks that may have been sparked by fear. Sky TG24 TV reported one of them was about 100 years old.



AP

The damaged medieval clock tower of Finale Emilia, Italy, Sunday, May 20, 2012, following the magnitude 6.0 earthquake that shook northern Italy early Sunday and literally cut the tower in two. A second quake on Sunday afternoon tore it down completely.

Gabrielli said dozens of people were injured.

Two of the dead were workers at a ceramics factory in the town of Sant'Agostino di Ferrara. Their cavernous building turned into a pile of rubble, leaving twisted metal supports jutting out at odd angles and the roof mangled.

"This is immense damage, but the worst part is we lost two people," fellow worker Stefano Zeni said. News reports said one of the dead had worked the shift of an ill colleague. Elsewhere in the town, another worker was found dead under factory rubble.

In the town of Ponte Rodoni di Bondeno, a worker also died as his factory collapsed, emergency workers told Italian news agencies.

Premier Mario Monti, in Chicago for the NATO summit, told reporters he was returning to Italy before the meeting ends because of the quake.

The quake struck in the farm region known for production of Parmigiano and Grana cheeses. Italy's farm lobby Coldiretti said that some 200,000 huge, round cheeses were damaged, causing a loss to producers of (EURO)50 million ($65 milion).

It also said in a statement that at least three barn roofs collapsed, trapping an unspecified number of pigs and milk cows inside.

Emilio Bianco, receptionist at Modena's Canalgrande hotel—housed in an ornate 18th-century palazzo—said the quake "was a strong one, and it lasted quite a long time." The hotel suffered no damage and the Modena province itself was spared, but guests spilled into the streets as soon as the quake hit, he said.

In Sant'Agostino. resident Alberto Fiorini said there was ``pandemonium'' during the night. "I took shelter under the bed and I prayed," he said.

Mohamed Atzerc, also from Sant'Agostino, said he had feared for the safety of his three small children.

"They were crying. A wardrobe collapsed in front of the door. The light went out and I thought that everything was collapsing on my children," who were unharmed, he said.

Many people were still awake at 4 a.m. and milling about town since stores and restaurants were open all night.

Overdrive

The Kia Sorento has outsold its smaller crossover sibling, the Kia Sportage. KIA/MCT

Redesigned Sorento is fun, easy to drive with lots of power

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

In 2003, Kia introduced the midsize Sorento SUV, which for a while replaced the Sportage, which had been the brand's only sport utility since the South Korean automaker arrived in the United States in the mid-'90s.

The Sportage two years later was reintroduced as a compact crossover, and remains in the Kia lineup.

But the Sorento has racked up much-better sales, and that continues this year. Kia had sold 26,011 of the Sorento through March, compared with 9,888 of the smaller Sportage.

There was no 2010 model for the U.S. market, but a completely redesigned Sorento went on sale in early 2010 as a 2011 model, based on the architecture of the Hyundai Santa Fe.

It was the first product to come out of the new Kia factory in West Point, Ga., which now also builds the Santa Fe on the same assembly line.

With the remake, the Sorento switched from a truck-style body-on-frame configuration to a crossover unibody design that offers more interior space, with room for up to seven passengers or 72.5 cubic feet of cargo (with the second and third row seats folded). It also has a more-comfortable ride.

The exterior was all new, with Kia design cues such as wraparound headlights lined up to the sporty grille (in a nice, friendly grin).

For 2012, prices range from $21,250 (plus $800 freight) for the base front-wheel-drive model with a 2.4 liter, 175-horsepower engine and six-speed manual transmission, to $34,850 for the fully loaded, V-6 powered SX all-wheel-drive model, which I tested.

But the LX is the first trim level to get an automatic transmission. The LX with the four-cylinder engine and six-speed automatic begins at $23,150 with front-wheel drive, and $25,350 with all-wheel drive. With a V-6 engine, the LX is either $24,950 (front drive) or $26,650 (all-wheel drive).

EX models, the midlevel trim, begin at $25,950 with a four-cylinder engine, automatic and front drive, and $27,650 with all-wheel drive. With a V-6, the EX starts at $27,950. The SX starts at $33,150 with front drive.

Multiple options and options packages are available for each model.

The Sorento SX comes in five elegant colors: Bright Silver (light gray), Titanium Silver (dark gray), Ebony Black, Snow White Pearl and Dark Cherry (nearly black). Leather seats are standard on the SX, in either black or Black Dove.

My SX AWD came with chrome roof racks, grille trim and tailgate accent; 18-inch, 10-spoke mirror-finish alloy wheels; dual chrome-tipped exhaust outlets; chrome door handles and lower window trim; stainless-steel trim on the rear bumper step pad and lower rear bumper, the lower front bumper and the illuminated sill plates; body-color power/folding outside mirrors with jewel-like turn-signal indicators on the rear of the housing; and a rear spoiler.

Raptor-like fog lights were set in a honeycomb housing, echoing the grille and large wraparound taillights with faceted LEDs, which added a nice look to the rear.

NUTS & BOLTS

2012 KIA SORENTO:

- **Base price: $21,250**
- **Price as tested: $34,850**

My Kia was fun and easy to drive, with lots of power (Kia calls it "The Power to Surprise"). Handling was responsive and secure, thanks to features like antilock brakes, traction control, electronic stability control, and downhill brake/hill-start assist control.

The 3.5 liter V-6 engine delivered 276 horsepower and 248 foot-pounds of torque. The six-speed automatic transmission (with manual-shift feature) shifted smoothly.

Inside, the SX was very comfortable, with just-right thigh support; power heated/cooled driver's seat with lumbar support; tilt/telescopic, leather-wrapped, heated steering wheel with controls for the audio system, Bluetooth wireless devices, and cruise control; and dual-zone climate control with an ionized air filter. The driver's seat and outside mirror also had memory settings.

The cruise control was easy to use, and the included navigation system (with Sirius Traffic and rearview-camera display) was exceptional—easy to program and to follow with precise directions and easy-to-read map.

The excellent Infinity Surround Sound audio system shared the touch screen with the navigation system and was easy to program using either "old school" buttons and knobs or the touch screen. A USB port, an auxiliary input jack and an iPod connection were located under the center of the dash, along with two 12-volt outlets.

The trip computer features a trip meter, odometer, and information regarding fuel remaining (18.5 gallon tank), range (miles until empty) and current average mileage (22 mpg in my case, with multiple short stop-and-go trips near home).

An ECO indicator alerts the driver when achieving optimum fuel economy, to help adjust driving habits to stretch the time between fill-ups. EPA ratings for the V-6 with all-wheel drive are 18 mpg in the city and 24 on the highway. The 2.4 liter with manual transmission is rated at 20/27 and seats five; the 2.4-liter with six-speed automatic is 22/32.

Five passengers can sit comfortably in the front and middle seats, and two additional can fit in the third seat, if necessary, but that seat is quite small and is probably good only for children or very short trips. The second row seatbacks fold and recline in a 60/40 configuration using a lever on the top of the seatback. I found the folding process a little awkward as the seatbacks (and the passenger seat) were heavy, and there was no power-assist. The front seats need to be pulled forward some to allow enough room for the second row to fold flat.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety gave the 2012 Sorento a "Good" overall rating for safety—the highest—making the vehicle a Top Safety Pick.

Total price of the tester was $37,200, including freight and options.

Diagnosing an overdrive issue

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: Recently my son-in-law replaced the 42RE transmission in his '96 Jeep Cherokee with one purchased at a salvage yard. The transmission works well in all gears except overdrive. It will not go into overdrive when he reaches sufficient speed. Any suggestions on how to get it to go into overdrive?

Answer: Is the transmission failing to engage overdrive? Or failing to lock up the torque converter clutch? Start with the simple possibilities. Any of the following could cause either of these issues: a faulty thermostat preventing the engine from reaching full operating temperature, a faulty or disconnected coolant temperature sensor or a faulty or disconnected vehicle speed sensor.

Focusing more specifically on this transmission, check for problems with the wiring or connections at the transmission, a faulty overdrive solenoid or a blown fuse or bad overdrive off switch. Internally, a worn overdrive clutch, low overdrive hydraulic pressure or a problem with the lower valve body might be the cause. Start the diagnostics by checking for fault codes with a scan tool.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: For the last year when I use the cruise control on my '99 Ford Explorer at speeds 65 miles per hour and higher, I notice that the cruise control engages and disengages every half to one second. The vehicle repeatedly surges forward, then backs off abruptly. The accelerator pedal is constantly moving back and forth as if I am depressing it and then releasing it.

Recently I was on the interstate and set the cruise control at about 72 mph. It immediately started the "jerking" cycle. After about 15 minutes the ABS light suddenly came on. I touched the brakes to make sure the brakes were working OK, and the cruise control disengaged. I then hit the cruise control resume button, and the cruise control no longer had the jerking motion. It was as smooth as the day I bought the vehicle.

Any ideas on the problem? Is there a correlation between the cruise control behavior and the ABS light?

A: My Alldata database identified a series of service bulletins focusing on the cruise control system used in this vehicle. Both the cruise control cable and the deactivation switch have been subject to specific recalls. Check with your dealer to see if your vehicle was included in these recalls.

The fact that the throttle position is changing indicates the cruise is not disengaging; rather it's hunting back and forth trying to establish the preset speed. A scan tool can search for diagnostic fault codes from the ABS and cruise control. And yes, a problem with the ABS control module could cause the type of cruise control speed fluctuations you've described.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I brought my 2006 Toyota Camry LE sedan in for its scheduled oil change. It has 37,700 miles. I was shocked when the service department at the Toyota dealership where I purchased the car told me I have two serious problems—water just starting to seep out of the engine block, so the water pump must be replaced for $450, and oil just starting to seep out of the oil pan, a $315 repair. They did not show me the problems on the car in the garage. They also offered to have the work done immediately.

A: Since neither of these problems is immediately serious, you did the right thing by not having the work done at that time. Absolutely have another Toyota dealer or a trusted independent check to confirm whether or not these leaks exist. If they do, you still have options. Adding a stop-leak product to the cooling system may well reduce any minor coolant leaks significantly. Checking the oil pan mounting bolts may do the same for the oil seepage.

As long as the engine doesn't run low on coolant or oil, no damage will occur. By monitoring the situation closely you'll know whether the leaks are significant and need immediate attention or minor ones that can be postponed.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.*

Life & Style

Bee Gees' Robin Gibb dies after lengthy cancer battle

LONDON (AP)—With his carefully tended hair, tight trousers and perfect harmonies, Robin Gibb, along with his brothers Maurice and Barry, defined the disco era. As part of the Bee Gees—short for the Brothers Gibb—they created dance floor classics like "Stayin Alive," ''Jive Talkin',"' and "Night Fever" that can still get crowds onto a dance floor.

The catchy songs, with their falsetto vocals and relentless beat, are familiar pop culture mainstays. There are more than 6,000 cover versions of the Bee Gees hits, and they are still heard on dance floors and at wedding receptions, birthday parties, and other festive occasions.

Robin Gibb, 62, died Sunday "following his long battle with cancer and intestinal surgery," his family announced in a statement released by Gibb's representative Doug Wright.

Gibb was the second disco-era star to die this week. Donna Summer—who earned the Queen of Disco title by singing "Last Dance" and "I Feel Love"—died of cancer in Florida on Thursday.

The Bee Gees, born in England but raised in Australia, began their career in the musically rich 1960s but it was their soundtrack for the 1977 movie "Saturday Night Fever" that sealed their success. The album's signature sound—some called it "blue-eyed soul"—remains instantly recognizable more than 40 years after its release.

The album remains a turning point in popular music history, ending the hard rock era and ushering in a time when dance music ruled supreme. It became one of the fastest-selling albums of all time with its innovative fusion of harmony and pulsing beats. The movie launched the career of a young John Travolta whose snake-hipped moves to the sounds of "You Should Be Dancing" established his reputation as a dancer and forever linked his image to that of the Bee Gees.

Recording Academy president Neil Portnow predicted that fans will dance to "Stayin' Alive" and other songs Bee Gees songs for generations to come.

"Robin has had an indelible impact on music," he said.

Despite financial success, Robin Gibb and his brothers endured repeated tragedies. Maurice died suddenly of intestinal and cardiac problems in 2003. Their younger brother Andy Gibb, who also enjoyed considerable chart success as a solo artist, had died in 1988 just after turning 30. He suffered from an inflamed heart muscle attributed to a severe viral infection.

Robin Gibb himself took care of his health and, at the time of his death, was a vegan who did not drink alcohol.

Gibb was for decades a familiar figure on the pop stage, starting out in the 1960s when the Bee Gees were seen as talented Beatles copycats. They sounded so much like the Beatles at first that there were strong rumors that the Bee Gees' singles were really the Beatles performing under another name.

Many late-'60s bands were quickly forgotten, but the Bee Gees transformed themselves into an enduring A-List powerhouse with the almost unbelievable, and certainly unexpected, success of the song "Stayin' Alive" and others from the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack that accompanied the movie.

With this second wind, the Bee Gees sold more than 200 million records and had a long string of successful singles, making their way into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"Saturday Night Fever"—actually a compilation album featuring the Bee Gees but including songs by other performers—represented the pinnacle of Gibb's career, but he enjoyed more than 40 years of prominence as a Bee Gee, as a solo artist, and as a songwriter and producer for other artists.

The Bee Gees consisted of Barry Gibb, the eldest, and twins Robin Gibb and Maurice Gibb. Their three-part harmonies became their musical signature, particularly in the disco phase, when Barry's matchless falsetto often dominated, and they were renowned for their wide-ranging songwriting and producing skills.

The Gibbs were born in England on the Isle of Man, an island in the Irish Sea, but moved to Australia with their parents in 1958 when they were still quite young and began their musical career there. They had been born into a musical family, with a father who was a drummer and bandleader and a mother who liked to sing.

After several hits in Australia, their career started to really take off when they returned to England in 1967 and linked up with promoter Robert Stigwood.

After several hits and successful albums, Robin Gibb left the group in 1969 after a series of disagreements, some focusing on whether he or Barry should be lead vocalist. He released some successful solo material—most notably "Saved by the Bell"—before rejoining his brothers in 1970 and scoring a major hit with "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart."

The Gibbs then suffered some slack years—searching for a style that could sustain them in the post-Beatles era—and Barry Gibb started experimenting with falsetto vocals, first on backup, and then in the lead position.

The brothers were at a low point when they went into a French studio to try to come up with some songs for the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack at the urging of Stigwood.

AP

In this January 1979 file photo, the British pop group the Bee Gees, from left, Robin Gibb, Barry Gibb and Maurice Gibb, pose for photographers, somewhere in England.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

†Delgadina Basa Blas Matagolai

January 12, 1935 – May 18, 2012

In Her New Life, she now joins her:

Husband: Manuel Santos Matagolai
Son: Anthony Blas Matagolai
Daughters: Maria Blas Matagolai
Lillian Blas Matagolai
Linda Blas Matagolai
Son-In-Law: Luis Manibusan Cepeda
Grandson: Anthony Matagolai Cepeda
Edwin Matagolai Cepeda
Parents: Pedro Santos and Guadalupe Basa Blas Matagolai
Brother, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Jesus Basa/ Soledad A. Blas
Maria Blas/ Vicente P. Manibusan
Teresita Blas/ Jose DLG. Diaz
Eugenio Repeki
Jose M. Manglona

*Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her **Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren:***

Guadalupe Matagolai Cepeda, Children and family
Juan Blas Matagolai/ Lourdes C. Atalig, Children and family
Roque Blas/ Margarita Duenas Matagolai, Children and family
Pedro Blas/ Hiromi G. Matagolai, Children and family
Ignacio Blas Matagolai, Children and family
Sophia Rita Matagolai/ Vicente S. Salas, Children and family
Barbara Blas Matagolai, Children and family
David Blas Matagolai
Linda Blas Matagolai/ Steven VanWinkle
Pearleen Blas Matagolai/ Benedicto Lizama III

Daughter-In-Law: Jesusana Matagolai
Reared Children: Josepha Kaipat
Mariano Kaipat

Sisters and In-Laws: Lucia B. Blas/ Antonio T. Mendiola and family
Dolores Basa Blas and family
Victoria B. Blas/ Alejandro R. Cabrera and family
Casilda Basa Blas and family
Emiliana Blas Manglona and family
Asinta Blas/ Augustin C. Pangelinan and family
Leonora Aldan Blas/ Willie Castro and family
Juanita Matagolai Sakisat and family

Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at the family residence at Atis St. in Kagman II at 7:30pm.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2012. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center, Beach Rd., Garapan at 8:00am to Nuestra Senora de Soladad Church in Kagman. Responso Service will be at 8:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:45am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am and Interment Service will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you – Si Yuus Maase

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Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Milton Bradley's strategic board game gets a sci-fi facelift with this Universal Pictures production from director Peter Berg (Hancock). The action will pit a small fleet of naval ships against an alien force intent on enriching Earth's valuable assets to ensure their survival. Taylor Kitsch (Wolverine) and True Blood's Alexander Skarsgard star alongside Liam Neeson, Rihanna, and Brooklyn Decker.

Raven

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

John Cusack, Luke Evans, Brendan Gleeson
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

In this gritty thriller, Edgar Allan Poe (John Cusack, Being John Malkovich) joins forces with a young Baltimore detective (Luke Evans, Immortals) to hunt down a mad serial killer who's using Poe's own works as the basis in a string of brutal murders. Directed by James McTeigue (V for Vendetta, Ninja Assassin), the film also stars Alice Eve (Sex and the City 2), Brendan Gleeson (In Bruges) and Oliver Jackson-Cohen (Faster).

What To Expect When You're Expecting

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Ana Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Dark Shadows

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Horror • Rated PG 13

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

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'Coal Miner's Daughter' Lynn married at 15, not 13

AP

In this Nov. 10, 2010 file photo, singer Loretta Lynn poses in the press room during the 44th Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Country music legend Loretta Lynn is three years older than she has led people to believe, an age change that undermines the story she told of being married at 13 in "Coal Miner's Daughter," documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Lynn's birth certificate on file at the state Office of Vital Statistics in Frankfort, Ky., shows that Loretta Webb was born on April 14, 1932, in Johnson County, Kentucky. That makes her 80 years old, not 77. Also on file is her marriage license and two affidavits from her mother, Clara Marie Ramey, and S.W. Ward Jr., who was not related to the family, listing the same birthdate.

The records weren't filed until 1965, which meant that Lynn needed multiple documents to prove her age at that time. Lynn's signature appears on the document as Loretta Webb Lynn.

Melvin Webb lists his daughter "Loretta" as 7 years old for the 1940 Census, according to a digital copy on file at the Kentucky Historical Society. Lynn's marriage license, obtained by the AP from the Johnson County clerk's office lists her as 15 on Jan. 10, 1948.

In "Coal Miner's Daughter," the autobiography that became an Academy Award-winning film, Lynn told a different story—that she was married at 13 and was a mother of four by 18. Most books and public references to Lynn list her current age as 77.

When contacted by the AP, Lynn's spokeswoman, Nancy Russell of Nashville, Tenn., declined comment. She said that Lynn has told her before in no uncertain terms, "If anyone asks how old I am, tell them it's none of their business!"

Lynn's younger brother, Herman Webb, declined to disclose Lynn's age, although he said there might have been a "mix-up" with Lynn's paperwork after she moved to Nashville to launch her country career. Her parents and many other relatives are dead, including her husband, O.V. "Mooney" Lynn.

Certainly Lynn isn't the first celebrity of a certain age to be less than forthcoming about a birthday, but the discrepancy is significant because age isn't just a number for the Country Music Hall of Fame member. It is woven into her compelling life story, made famous in her 1976 bestselling autobiography, "Coal Miner's Daughter," and the subsequent film starring Sissy Spacek. The movie made $67 million nationwide and was nominated for seven Oscars; Spacek won for her portrayal of Lynn.

The Grammy-winning singer recently announced that it will become a Broadway musical, starring actress and singer Zooey Deschanel.

The way Lynn chose to tell it in the book, she was married at 13, moved with her husband to Washington State at 16 and was a mother of four by 18. Lynn has six kids in all. The marriage certificate shows that Lynn instead married just shy of her 16th birthday, which was not unusual in Kentucky at that time. Her husband was 21.

It would have been illegal for a girl under the age of 14 to marry in Kentucky in 1948, said R. Eric Henninger of the Kentucky State Law Library. At that time, he said, "lots of folks didn't have any sort of official proof of age."

An AP reporter recently found Lynn's birth certificate online that listed a different birthdate from the one listed in the news agency's database of celebrity birthdays. The reporter changed the date in the database; when the new birthday was used in a recent story, the Country Music Hall of Fame contacted the AP about the discrepancy.

Lynn addresses the perils of disclosing her age in her autobiography.

"When I was born, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the president for several years. That's the closest I'm gonna come to telling my age in this book, so don't go looking for it," she writes. "I'm trying to make a living singing songs. I don't need nobody out there saying, 'She don't look bad considering she's such-and-such years old.'"

Lynn's co-author on "Coal Miner's Daughter," New York Times sports columnist George Vecsey, said in a phone interview that he did not verify the age claims in the book with official documentation.

'Avengers' sinks 'Battleship' to remain No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Avengers" continues to muscle out everything else Hollywood throws at it, easily sinking naval rival "Battleship" and other new releases.

With $55.1 million domestically, Disney's superhero sensation remained No. 1 for a third-straight weekend and took in more than the three big newcomers combined. Overseas, "The Avengers" added an additional $56 million.

The film is approaching the $1.2 billion mark worldwide, totaling $457.1 million domestically and $723.3 million internationally.

"'The Avengers' is dominating the marketplace so profoundly that the newcomers are having a tough time breaking in now," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Universal's "Battleship" opened a distant No. 2 with $25.4 million domestically, well below industry expectations.

But the board-game adaptation starring Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch and Rihanna already has grossed $226.8 million overseas since launching in April, giving it a worldwide total of $252.1 million.

"I would be glad to be No. 2 if we opened to a better number. But given the presence of an absolute juggernaut in the marketplace, there's nothing you can do," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "Not to have a shot at being No. 1 this weekend is disappointing. But it's a challenge with 'Avengers' out there."

Sacha Baron Cohen's comedy "The Dictator," in which he plays a tyrannical third-world leader, debuted in third-place with $17.4 million for the weekend. Since opening Wednesday, the Paramount release has taken in $24.5 million.

Johnny Depp and Tim Burton's vampire romp "Dark Shadows," which opened in second-place a week earlier, slipped to No. 4 with $12.8 million. The Warner Bros. release lifted its domestic total to $50.9 million, a weak result compared to the previous Depp-Burton blockbusters "Alice in Wonderland" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Lionsgate's pregnancy comedy "What to Expect When You're Expecting," featuring Cameron Diaz and Jennifer Lopez, premiered at No. 5 with $10.5 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**The Avengers**," $55.1 million ($56 million international).
2. "**Battleship**," $25.4 million ($6.5 million international).
3. "**The Dictator**," $17.4 million ($30.3 million international).
4. "**Dark Shadows**," $12.8 million ($30.4 million international).
5. "**What to Expect When You're Expecting**," $10.5 million.
6. "**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**," $3.3 million ($1.8 million international).
7. "**The Hunger Games**," $3 million ($1.5 million international).
8. "**Think Like a Man**," $2.7 million.
9. "**The Lucky One**," $1.8 million ($2.7 million international).
10. "**The Pirates! Band of Misfits**," $1.5 million.

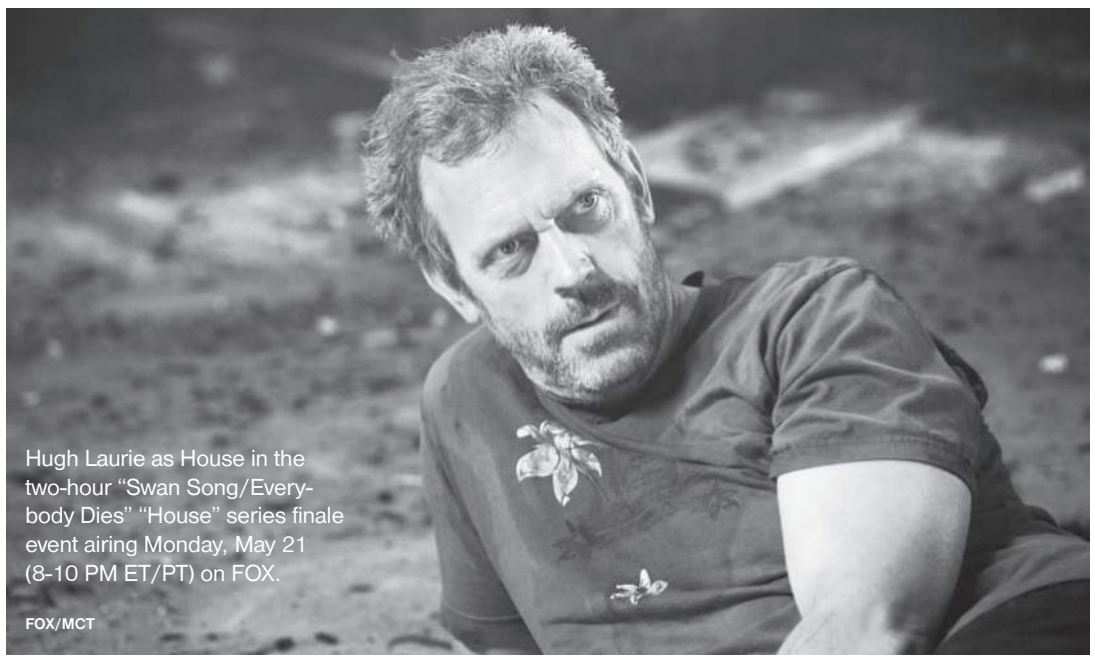
■■■

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. "**The Avengers**," $56 million.
2. "**Dark Shadows**," $30.4 million.
3. "**The Dictator**," $30.3 million.
4. "**American Reunion**," $10.2 million.
5. "**Battleship**," $6.5 million.
6. "**All About My Wife**," $3.7 million.
7. "**Do-nui Mat**," $3.5 million.
8. "**The Lucky One**," $2.7 million.
9. "**Rust and Bone**," $2.2 million.
10. "**The Vow**," $2 million.

Hugh Laurie makes his last 'House' call

By VERNE GAY
NEWSDAY


Hugh Laurie as House in the two-hour "Swan Song/Everybody Dies" "House" series finale event airing Monday, May 21 (8-10 PM ET/PT) on FOX.
FOX/MCT

NEW YORK—Here's where we stand as one of TV's premiere dramas of the past decade comes to an end Monday night. Dr. Gregory House (Hugh Laurie) must return to jail for six months for parole violation, while Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard) will likely be dead from cancer in five months.

In jail for six months, while his only friend in the cold, cruel and indifferent universe will be gone forever in five.

A rock on one side. A hard place on the other.

As usual, this conundrum is all House's fault—following some elaborate scheme gone very bad that was designed to force a reluctant Wilson to undergo chemotherapy so that he'd stay alive a couple more years, thereby giving House himself a reason to stay alive. But with House in jail, Wilson will probably forgo chemo and die. And without Wilson by his side, what does House have left to live for? Checkmate.

Phew: Grim, dark, scary...and remarkable.

Remarkable that a series which was always about a battle between the head and heart—specifically House's hard head and cold heart—should win countless admirers and viewers while becoming, for a time, one of the most popular shows on the planet.

Especially remarkable that an unrepentant misanthrope with a game leg and taste for Vicodin would become a pop icon for eight seasons.

"House" was a rare bird indeed—a commercial TV program about the search for truth by a desperately flawed man embittered by the futility of his pursuit. "We became doctors to treat illnesses," House sourly explained in the opening moments. "Treating patients is what makes most doctors miserable."

He further advised his colleagues never to ask patients anything because "everybody lies." Monday's finale (9 p.m. EDT, Fox; a retrospective airs at 8) is entitled "Everybody Dies."

Back in 2004, Fox had been in the market for its own "Law & Order"-like procedural, and bought an idea from veteran producer Paul Attanasio ("Homicide") and David Shore, a former lawyer from Canada who'd had modest success as a TV writer ("Hack," "Family Law").

Shore's idea, however, was a new twist on a very old idea, or in his words at the time, a "whatdoneit" versus a "whodoneit." House was to be an embittered Sherlock Holmes—a miscreant doctor with the world's worst bedside manner motivated by a near-pathological pursuit of the truth. Wilson—his Watson—would help sand those razor-sharp edges.

Like most writers, Shore had lifted the idea from his own life. "We all have to deal with idiots and (in one instance) I was the idiot," he once explained. He had gone to a hospital to have a hip checked long after the pain had gone. "I was examined by five different doctors who found nothing wrong, and they were so good to me, but I knew they were relentlessly mocking me later." He decided a show about a doctor who mocked the patient to his face might work.

Bowing Nov. 16, 2004, "House" was very nearly an instant flop (just over 6 million viewers) but Fox propped the show up behind "American Idol" the following year, and a phenom was born. By the end of 2005, "House" was a TV giant, and the giant only grew from there.

"House" succeeded because of a ferociously intelligent performance by Laurie, but he had unusually able support, including Leonard, who left a distinguished stage career for this, as well as Lisa Edelstein, Omar Epps, Jesse Spencer, Olivia Wilde and Peter Jacobson (who joined in '07). All were cast as doctors or administrators who suffered under House's relentless lash or, in the case of Lisa Cuddy (Edelstein), his relentless romantic attentions.

And while a formula, "House" rarely felt like one because Shore's research and writing were models of precision. Words never felt wasted, while every line seemed to service the story or medical case of the moment.

Shore recently explained that the show's "message ... and what House stands for is really the pursuit of truth, and not just blindly following, while asking 'what is reality and what is the right thing to do.' That search for objective truth is what I found fundamentally the most interesting throughout the run of the show."

Of course, "House" was smart enough to know that the declaration, "everybody lies," applied to Dr. Gregory House as well. Our tragic hero will probably end his eight-year run with the full realization that truth is unattainable, while his own querulous existence has been, on some level, a cosmic joke.

Shore will only say that the end is "bittersweet."

Katie Couric urges UVa grads to persevere

Couric

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Television journalist Katie Couric has urged University of Virginia graduates to take risks and persevere.

The Daily Progress reports that the former "Today" host and CBS News anchor addressed about 6,400 graduates on Sunday. She recounted the deaths of her husband and sister, both of whom died of cancer, and said, "Life can deal you some crushing blows, and we all need a deep reserve of resilience to survive."

Couric, now with ABC News and developing a daytime talk show "Katie" that debuts Sept. 10, also joked about criticism she faced as the first female solo anchor of a network's nightly news program.

She quipped, "Some said I lacked 'gravitas,' which I've since decided is Latin for 'testicles.'"

Couric is a 1979 UVa graduate. The university's new cancer center is named for her sister Emily Couric, a Virginia state senator who died in 2001.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kanye West to debut short film at Cannes festival

CANNES, France (AP)—Kanye West will debut a short film titled "Cruel Summer" at the Cannes Film Festival. The rapper announced Friday that he'll present the film on Wednesday at the French festival. West and his creative collective DONDA will screen the "short art film" out of competition in Cannes. West's press release promises "a fusion of short film and art installation" and an "immersive seven-screen experience." It will remain open to the public for two days following its premiere. West has previously directed music videos for his music, including 2010's "Runaway."

Gael Garcia Bernal's confident 'No'

Cannes, France (AP)—Gael Garcia Bernal is selling happiness in Cannes. The Mexican actor stars in "No," directed by Chilean director Pablo Larrain, which shows how television helped Chile overthrow Gen. Augusto Pinochet in 1988. Bernal plays an advertising guy, drawn into the rival referendum TV campaigns—trying to persuade people to vote "No" to eight more years of Pinochet. His character uses adverts to sell Chileans the idea of happiness and positive change. Bernal is also in a good mood. The Mexican actor and the movie received rapturous applause when it was shown at the film festival's Directors' Fortnight Friday. Bernal says: "I'm really happy. It's strange, I don't think I've ever felt as confident as I feel now, because I saw the film before coming here and I absolutely loved it."

Indian star ends mystery over granddaughter's name

NEW DELHI (AP)—Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan says his superstar son and daughter-in-law have named their baby girl Aaradhya. Speculation about the baby's name had swirled since she was born Nov. 16 to actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, a L'Oreal spokeswoman and former Miss World. The proud 69-year-old grandfather—referred to in Bollywood as "The Big B"—had been calling the baby "Beti B," using the Hindi word for "daughter." On Sunday, he confirmed rumors that "Her name is Aaradhya," following a question from a fan on social networking site Twitter.

Proposal from married man is little cause for celebration

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 42-year-old woman who has been living with my boyfriend, "Matt." He has asked me to marry him, and I said yes. The problem is, Matt is still married.

Matt and his wife have been separated for eight years. I keep telling him to get in touch with her and see if she filed for divorce, but he keeps putting it off.

I really do love this man, Abby. Matt is good to me and to my children and grandchildren, but sometimes I don't know what to think or do. I want us to buy a house, but I'm scared that if we do, she'll try to take it from us. He says she wouldn't. Please give me some advice.

LADY IN WAITING IN LOUISIANA

DEAR LADY IN WAITING: I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but a marriage proposal from a man who is still married means nothing. I urge you to PLEASE consult a lawyer before putting money into any joint financial ventures with this man. He may be "good" to you, your children and grandchildren, but he hasn't been completely forthright.

Your concerns are justified. Listen to your woman's intuition. It's sending you an important message.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I adopted a dog from my local Humane Society. "Brandy's" approximate age at the time of adoption was 16 years. I had two wonderful years with Brandy before he died.

What I would like to share with your readers is, when you consider adopting a pet, please don't rule out an animal based strictly on age. Older animals can make excellent additions to a family. They deserve our love and kindness, too.

MISSING BRANDY IN JUNEAU, ALASKA

DEAR MISSING: I'm sorry that you and Brandy were not able to have more years together, but bless you for sharing your heart and home with a pet that many might have overlooked.

Older animals can provide a great deal of love and joy. They also are usually housebroken—something to consider for anyone for whom puppyhood and adolescence might prove too destructive.

The local shelter is an excellent place to find a mature companion.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The letters that have appeared in your column about safe driving prompt this one. I hope you will consider my experience worth sharing.

I have poor depth perception. I make adjustments for this problem and check the distance between me and the car in front of me by looking at the distance on the road and not at the car.

I began to notice that the cars coming at me were "fuzzy" and that I had to close one eye to have a clear image of them. Then I realized I was doing the same thing while watching television. I mentioned it to my optometrist, and she checked my eyes and found that I had double vision. The adjustment to my prescription was so slight that you would not notice it, but I can now see clearly with my new glasses.

CLEARLY FOCUSED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR CLEARLY FOCUSED: Your letter was an eye-opener. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to remind readers to have their vision checked every year—and to report any changes in vision to the doctor immediately.

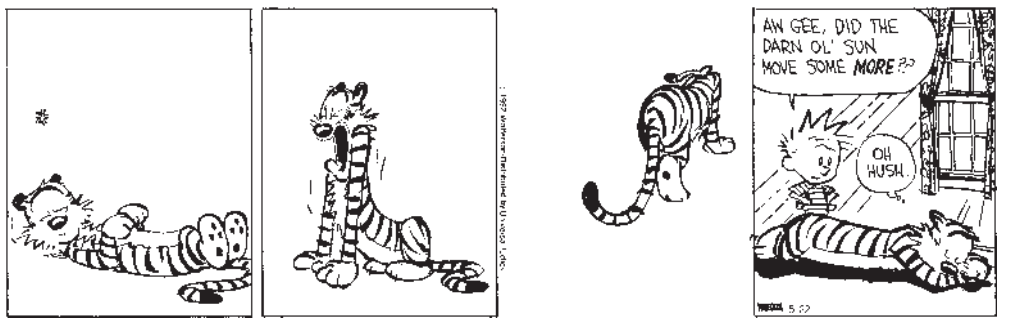
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

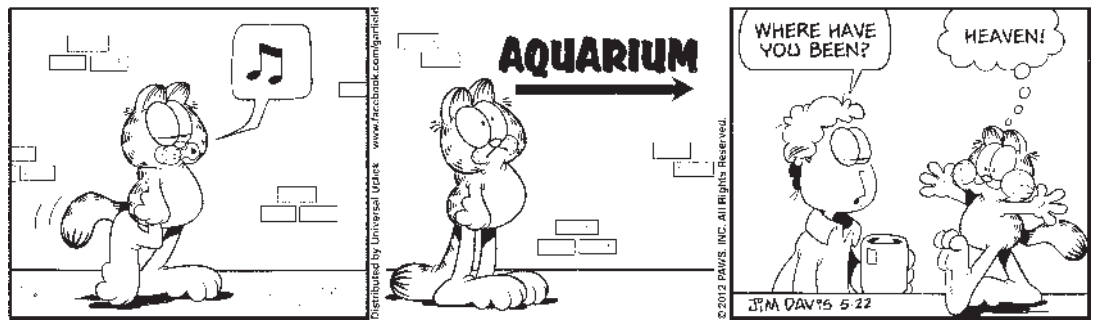
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KATY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY?
DANCE PARTY!
DANCE PARTY? GREAT IDEA!
WITH A COOKIE CAKE AND A DOLPHIN.
COOKIE CAKE IS NOT A PROBLEM. THE DOLPHIN, THOUGH...
HOW ABOUT A COOKIE CAKE OF A DOLPHIN?
GOOD IDEA. DOLPHINS CAN GET CRANKY WHEN THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR NATURAL SETTING.
I LIKE DADDY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF OFFICE SUPPLIES I TYPICALLY SWIPE AND THE FREE COFFEE I DRINK.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE MORE COST-EFFECTIVE IF I JUST STAYED HOME THIS WEEK.
HE JUST MADE ME "EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK"

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

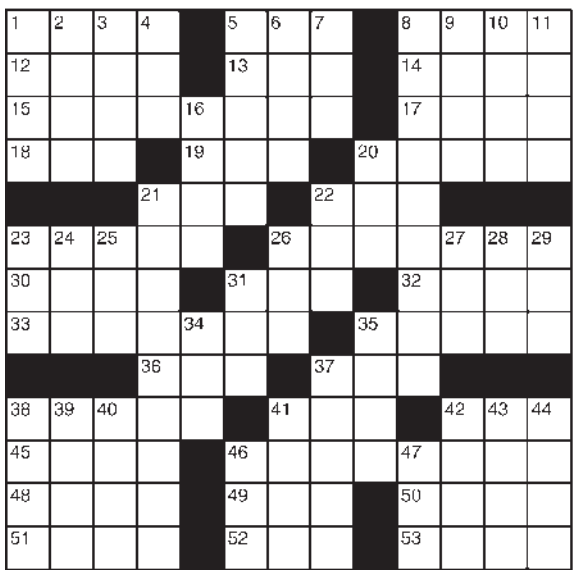
ACROSS
1 Taj Mahal city
5 Lunch order, for short
8 "Bye"
12 Bellow
13 Kanga's kid
14 Change for a five
15 Always playing the same role
17 Beehive State
18 Perched
19 Illuminated
20 With aloofness
21 Light brown
22 "Go, team!"
23 Underneath
26 Flip-flops
30 Suitor
31 Solemn promise
32 Mayberry moppet
33 Used a stopwatch on
35 Chirping sound
36 Whammy
37 Inmate
38 Devoutness
41 Supporting
42 Clear the tables
45 Vortex
46 Sad
48 Show sadness
49 Anger
50 Do as you're told
51 Logical
52 Apiece
53 Test the waters

DOWN
1 — and crafts
2 Maja painter
3 Engrossed
4 "All the Things You —"
5 Gray matter
6 Missing
7 Youngster
8 Six-pointer
9 Opposed to
10 Blue hue
11 Wan
16 Talon
20 Author Fleming
21 Not hunt-and-peck
22 Uncooked
23 English channel?
24 Moray, e.g.
25 Thai neighbor
26 Turf
27 Gorilla
28 Whopper
29 Congealed
31 Annoy
34 Crucial
35 Undecided
37 Cringe in fear
38 Church furniture
39 Concept
40 Paradise
41 Links warning
42 Ali —
43 Second-hand
44 Eyelid woe
46 Party bowlful
47 Intimidate

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	I			A	N	D		S	O	D	A
R	O	O	F		S	I	R		E	N	V	Y
K	I	W	I		A	G	O		C	E	D	E
S	N	A	R	E		H	O	B	O			
			S	A	M		P	A	N	A	M	A
F	O	X	T	R	O	T		A	D	L	I	B
A	C	R	E		P	A	D		C	U	R	E
S	H	A	D	E		B	A	T	H	M	A	T
T	O	Y	I	N	G		B	R	A			
			T	E	N	T		A	N	G	S	T
M	A	G	I		O	R	E		C	I	A	O
O	R	E	O		M	O	W		E	R	G	O
B	E	E	N		E	Y	E		L	E	T	

Yesterday's answer 5-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Apolo Anton Ohno, 30; Ginnifer Goodwin, 34; Naomi Campbell, 42; Morrissey, 53.

Happy Birthday: Don't settle for anything less than the best. Follow through with your business plans for the right reason. Someone you are dealing with will have ulterior motives, making it imperative that you consider every angle in any situation you face. You will achieve more if you don't let emotional matters interfere with your goals. Your numbers are 1, 4, 17, 25, 29, 34, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't push too hard, or you will meet with resistance. Take a break and enjoy the moment. Peace and quiet will do you good and help you come up with some excellent ideas that can raise your financial intake. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Consider a new social activity, or plan a pleasure trip. Expanding your options and interests will also lead to new connections. Conversing with people from different backgrounds will broaden your perspective on what you can achieve. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be afraid to make personal changes. Your insight into new trends will help you attract positive attention. Altering your lifestyle or making changes to your home will make a difference. Hidden assets will surface. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Update your image and your attitude. Find out about the current trends and how you can participate in your future instead of falling behind. Your mental attitude can set the mood and change the way others treat you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make a difference. Volunteer or get involved in a cause that concerns you, and you will develop friendships with interesting people. Friendship and promises fulfilled will be integral to building a solid support system, helping you achieve future goals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep the communication flowing. Problems develop when you don't discuss issues. Emotions will flare up and tempers will erupt, but it will all be worth your while if you can come to some understanding in the end. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Acquaintances will realize your potential before those close to you do. Air your ideas with those who share your interests. Love and romance are highlighted and should not be wasted. Plan a fun evening. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Partnerships will play a heavy role in your decision-making. Make sure you are in total agreement and not just trying to please others. Concentrate on a creative project that has the potential to bring in cash. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make your move. Change is required if you want to make things better in your personal life and partnerships. Anger will not solve problems. Use your charm and find solutions. Love is highlighted. Make love, not war. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Express yourself. Whether it's a personal or professional matter that is bothering you, the best remedy is to open up about the way you feel and put it behind you. Letting any problem fester will only double your trouble. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't get involved in something because someone else wants you to. Think for yourself. You have choices, and making the right one based on common sense will lead you in a stable and fulfilling direction. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let hearsay or rumors get you down. Look to the positive aspects of life and the people who have always been there for you. Your compassionate nature and willingness to help others will bring you the rewards you deserve. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You think big. You are an explorer and a determined achiever.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		5		4		
				8	3		6	
1				6				8
							7	
8	4	3				6	2	5
	9							
4				2				1
	5		4	9				
		6		7		9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	3	2	9	1	6	5	8
2	6	8	5	7	4	3	1	9
5	9	1	8	3	6	4	7	2
6	5	7	9	1	2	8	4	3
1	4	9	7	8	3	2	6	5
3	8	2	4	6	5	7	9	1
7	2	6	3	5	9	1	8	4
9	1	4	6	2	8	5	3	7
8	3	5	1	4	7	9	2	6

Difficulty Level ★ 5/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE WORLD OF FERMENTATION **Solution: 8 letters**

D	E	S	C	W	G	W	E	R	B	R	H	C	Y	L
D	E	E	T	W	A	R	I	F	E	K	I	O	A	A
D	L	R	F	I	H	T	A	N	P	D	G	C	P	T
A	E	O	U	F	U	E	E	M	E	U	T	P	E	S
E	K	R	M	T	O	R	A	R	R	O	L	A	O	A
R	L	N	U	A	L	C	F	T	B	E	L	Q	V	E
B	I	V	E	C	L	U	H	A	U	L	T	I	U	Y
E	M	A	K	E	R	T	C	O	I	R	N	T	V	E
Y	O	C	M	U	G	I	E	N	C	E	S	S	U	E
R	T	I	I	R	L	P	A	D	G	O	D	H	K	B
E	T	M	A	L	A	V	R	A	S	O	L	A	I	A
E	A	I	U	R	R	S	R	N	O	I	J	A	H	R
B	N	S	G	R	T	A	A	F	D	M	E	A	T	L
D	A	I	R	Y	A	E	G	L	A	B	N	E	H	E
S	D	E	S	A	B	G	I	K	T	M	A	U	B	Y

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Apple, Barley, Based, Beans, Beer, Brew, Butter, Chocolate, Cider, Coffee, Cultured, Cured, Dahl, Dairy, Foods, Fruits, Furu, Garlic, Garum, Grain, Gram, Grape, Hops, Idli, Kajmak, Kefir, Labneh, Lactobacillus, Make, Malted, Mauby, Meat, Milk, Mold, Natto, Olive, Pulque, Rice, Rye Bread, Salt, Time, Turshi, Vanilla, Vinegar, Water, Wheat, Wine, Yeast, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Facility

To order 1-DECADE COLLECTION WONDERWORD, Volume 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 or 34, send $5.95 each (US funds only, payable to Universal Uclick) plus $3.00 each for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd additional books to: Uclick Attn: WORDWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-591-6570. Order online at puzzles.uclick.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to pkt@hanmisaipan.com. Civil Travel Service Co., Ltd.

(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Applicants with work experience in the Saipan tourism industry are preferred. Email resume to knl@hanmisaipan.com. K.N.L. Co., Ltd. dba Happy Island Tour

WANTED TO BUY

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR SALE

Pigs for sale, big white male, 2 females, Weiner pigs, quality stock. Breed or roast call 322-0268

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Lover's Leap

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Chinese Speaking Waiter or Waitress

American style restaurant is seeking for a reliable waiter or waitress to be part of our team. Experience in food and beverage industry required. Local, U.S., employment authorization or CW-1 status.

Fax resume to 670-234-1611 or apply in person at Marianas Business Plaza Room 312.

L&T Group of Companies is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following position:

4 GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKERS

High school diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to L & T Group of Companies office at the 2nd floor of JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Friday, May 25, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L & T Group of Companies is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012 **Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012**

JVA No. 12-017 for Power (T&D) Division, Saipan; Position(s): One (1).
JVA No. 12-018 for Wastewater Division, Saipan; Position(s) : One (1).

Administrative Support Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power (Transmission and Distribution) Division Manager or his/her designee. Drafts a variety of documents such as memorandums, correspondence, reports, and schedules. Performs routine clerical support duties to include: preparing certifications; maintaining databases; performing data entry; filing; faxing; copying; routing documents and information; separating and sorting documents; uploading and downloading routes; restocking supplies; scheduling appointments; and, typing. Explains CUC and departmental policies and procedures. Coordinates supervisor's schedule and screens/responds to supervisor's routine messages. Collects, receives, processes, sorts, and distributes a variety of correspondence, documents, deliveries, and mail. Responds to requests for information and provides assistance with completing departmental paperwork; resolves customer complaints. Compiles, reviews and processes timecards. Attends and takes minutes at meetings; gathers and organizes information to be discussed on the agenda. Makes and coordinates travel arrangements. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: See Above.
SALARY: $13,625.00 to $17,713.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Associates Degree in related field is preferred. Four years of related work experience and proven experience in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Phone etiquette; Modern office procedures, methods, and equipment; Basic filing and record keeping principles. Skill in: Providing customer service; Preparing reports; Prioritizing work; Providing customer service; Alphabetizing and filing; Keyboarding; Using modern office equipment; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a CNMI or U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-019

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Warehouse Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Conducts year-end physical inventory of all inventory stock materials. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

Salary: $11,036.00 per annum.

Position: One.

Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE. Experience in a related field preferred. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skills in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Must be able to obtain: Forklift Certification.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-016

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Meter Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power (Transmission and Distribution) Division Manager or his/her designee. Installs or assists install customer meters to ensure billing of services received. Performs or assists in meter testing; replaces damaged meters with new meters. Performs or assists in disconnections and reconnections of services; disconnects tampered accounts. Performs verifications to ensure meters are functioning properly. Delivers delinquency notices to customers with no addresses. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Power (T&D) Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $23,465.00 to $28,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS: Three (3).

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Four years of work experience; related work experience is preferred. Knowledge of: Meters; Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Installing and replacing meters; Disconnecting and reconnecting meters; Identifying illegal connections; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a CNMI or U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

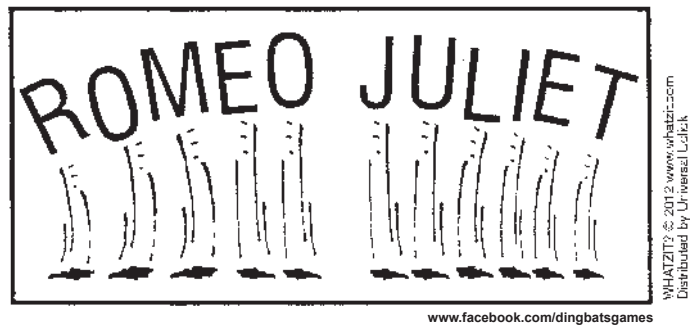
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

James, Wade combine for 70 as Heat win Game 4

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The coveted NBA championship, the one LeBron James needs to validate everything, was vanishing.

With 18,000 towel-waving fans roaring like the engines at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indiana Pacers had knocked the Miami Heat to the floor and to the edge of elimination.

James didn't panic. He simply picked up his teammates and carried them to a win.

And this time, Dwyane Wade helped.

James scored 40 points with 18 rebounds and nine assists, and Wade added 30 points—22 in the second half—as Miami rallied to even their semifinal series against Indiana with a 101-93 win on Sunday over the Pacers, who had the defending Eastern Conference champions down couldn't keep them there.

"I felt like I had to do whatever it took to win," said James, who played all but four minutes.

With All-Star forward Chris Bosh injured and back in Florida, the James-Wade tag team saved the Heat, who will host Game 5 on Tuesday night at AmericanAirlines Arena.

"Me and `Bron had it going," said Wade, who bounced back from the worst playoff game of his career—five points on 2-of-13 shooting—with one of his best, "We played off of each other very well. We both were aggressive at the same time. That's beautiful basketball for the Miami Heat when we play that way."

The Heat now head home back in control of the best-of-seven series, which is down to a best-of-three with two of the games on Miami's home floor.

"It's still going to be a dogfight," James said.

Udonis Haslem, playing with a large bandage covering a nasty cut over his right eye that required nine stitches, added 14 points for Miami.

For a while, the Heat's season was slipping away.

The underrated Pacers had built a 10-point lead in the third quarter and were threatening to run away as they did in Game 3, when James and Wade took over. They scored 38 consecutive points in one stretch bridging the second and third quarters and combined to score 28 of Miami's 30 in the third when the Heat seemed to be playing with two to Indiana's five.

"LeBron had that look," Heat forward Shane Battier said. "And when he has that look and Dwyane has that look, you want to run through a wall."

Wade finished with nine rebounds and six assists, erasing the ugly memory of Game 3 when he also had a confrontation with Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, a public dispute that turned into a bigger deal than it probably was because of a two-day break between games. The next day, Wade, who has refused to blame injuries for his recent struggles, visited his former Marquette coach Tom Crean, who is now at Indiana.

Wade said Crean had film for him to watch.

"I was able to be a student of the game," Wade said. "Just figuring out what I needed to do differently to help our team get this win. I just wanted to come out today and affect the game somehow. Obviously, I knew I was struggling a little bit on my offensive game. I wasn't going to let that affect my overall game."

James dismissed the idea the Heat were desperate team.

"That's a strong word," he said. "It's a team with a lot of veterans and a lot of fighters."

Danny Granger scored 20 and Paul George 13 to lead the Pacers. Center Roy Hibbert, so dominant at both ends in Game 3, had just 10 points and was in foul trouble in the second half.

Indiana coach Frank Vogel second-guessed his decision to keep Hibbert and David West on the bench for a long stretch after halftime. But it was the Pacers' inability to stop Wade and James that was the difference.

"You get the ball out of one of those guy's hands and it gets to the other guy's," he said. "It's not like one superhero and a bunch of role guys."

Granger's 3-pointer had given Indiana a 61-51 and the Pacers, outhustling the Heat to loose balls, appeared poised to take a commanding lead in the series.

But that's when James and Wade put on a jaw-dropping spectacle, combining for all but two points in a 25-5 run that put Miami up 76-66.

During one sequence, Wade lost his balance and fell and was lucky to push the ball toward James near the top of the key. As Wade scrambled to his feet, James alertly passed him the ball and he calmly knocked down a 3-pointer to give the Heat a 64-63 lead. The pair made easy shots, tough ones and did everything in their power to steer Miami away from a 3-1 hole.

Only eight teams in league history have overcome a 3-1 deficit to win a best-of-seven series. That's what the Heat were staring at with a loss in Game 4.

The Heat took a 76-70 lead into the fourth, and every time Indiana got close, either Wade or James responded.

Miami also got a huge lift down the stretch from Haslem, who hasn't been a factor in the series but made four big jumpers in the final six minutes despite having his head split by an elbow by Indiana's Tyler Hansbrough.

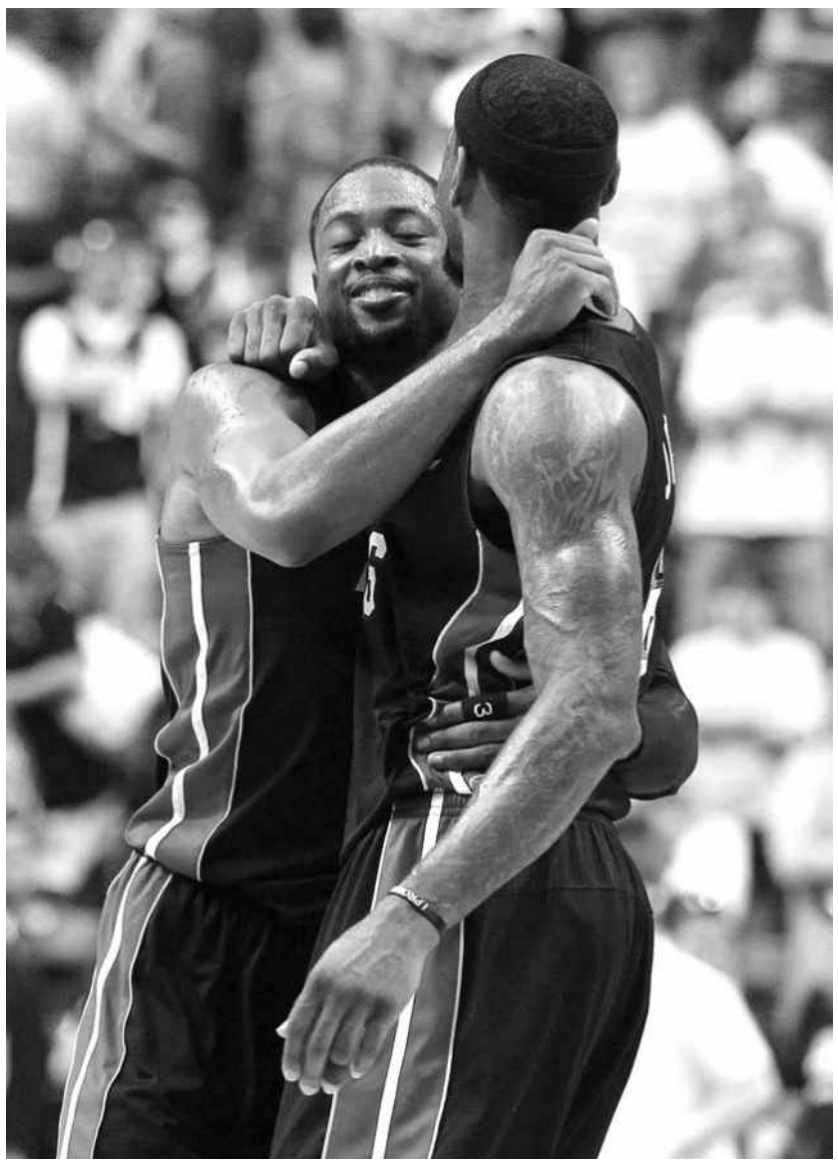
"Those guys carry a large load," Haslem said of Wade and James. "But sometimes we need other guys to step up and tonight was my turn. Next time it might be somebody else."

Granger's 3-pointer got the Pacers within 96-91 with 1:33 left, but Haslem hit another short shot and James closed the Pacers out with three free throws in the last 16 seconds.

Following the game, James sat in front of his locker icing both knees and reading a hard copy of "Hunger Games."

After finishing a page or two, he set the book down. There'd be time for that later.

The Heat were heading home, feeling good about the next chapter.



AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James, right, hugs Dwyane Wade during the second half of Game 4 of their NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series against the Indiana Pacers, Sunday, May 20, 2012, in Indianapolis.

Spurs 102, Clippers 99

In Los Angeles, Tim Duncan scored 21 points, and Tony Parker added 17 as San Antonio rallied to beat Los Angeles, closing out the series 4-0 and advancing to the Western Conference finals.

The Spurs extended their winning streak to 18 games and their playoff record to 8-0, tying the third-best postseason streak in franchise history.

Danny Green and Gary Neal added 14 points each, and Manu Ginobili and Thiago Splitter had 11 each for the Spurs. San Antonio could find out as soon as Monday night who it will play next. Oklahoma City leads the Lakers 3-1 in their series, with Game 5 on Monday.

Chris Paul had 23 points and 11 assists, Blake Griffin added 21 points, and Eric Bledsoe had 17 for Los Angeles. The Clippers blew a six-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Dufner's 25-foot birdie putt on 18 wins Nelson

IRVING, Texas (AP)—A month ago, Jason Dufner was a single man still in search of his first PGA Tour victory.

Life has certainly changed for the 35-year-old golfer who last summer at the PGA Championship blew a four-stroke lead with four holes to play and lost in a playoff.

With a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole of the Byron Nelson Championship on Sunday, Dufner closed out a one-stroke victory over Dicky Pride to win for the second time in four weeks.

"You probably couldn't dream it any better than what's been going on here," Dufner said. "The wedding has been in the works for close to a year, so we know that's been coming around the corner. And there's been a lot of good golf since then, but to win two events and get married in the span of 22 days, pretty remarkable."

Dufner got his first victory April 29 at New Orleans, then got married the following week.

Now he has already won again, this time making $1.17 million and taking over the top spot in the FedEx Cup standings.

His closing birdie wrapped up a 3-under 67 round for an 11-under 269 to avoid a playoff with Pride.

Pride, whose only PGA Tour victory in a 20-year professional career came in 1994, was at 10 under with a par-saving 22-foot putt at No. 18 for a round of 67 after hitting his drive into the water.

Moments later, Dufner made a putt that was only a few feet longer but on virtually the same line.

"Apparently that was not a very difficult putt on 18, from the long right," Pride said chuckling.

J.J. Henry, who had an early hole-in-one, was in the lead at 11 under after consecutive birdies at Nos. 15 and 16, overcoming a bad tee shot on the first and a greenside bunker on the second.

Pride made a 13-foot birdie at No. 17 right before Henry, in the final group with Dufner, hit a 7-iron over the par-3 green. The former TCU star lost the lead with a double bogey after a 4-foot putt slid just outside the cup.

"To be honest, I thought I hit a good shot on 17. I thought the wind was a little into me," Henry said. "I hit the line exactly where I tried to and it just carried about 6 or 7 yards too far."

After watching Henry's meltdown, Dufner made a tap-in par at No. 17 and then hit a big drive on No. 18 in the middle of the fairway. He hit a sand wedge to the middle of the green, then avoided a playoff with the long putt to join Hunter Mahan as the only two-time winners this season.

"I knew I was tied after I hit the tee shot," Dufner said. "I knew if I made birdie that I would win, par would be a playoff, but the playoffs aren't much fun. My experience in them aren't too great."

While Dufner's win at New Orleans came in a two-hole playoff against Ernie Els, he lost twice in playoffs last season, including to Keegan Bradley in the PGA Championship.

Joe Durant, who was the final alternate added to the Nelson field, shot a 65 to finish in a tie for third at 271 with Henry (68), Marc Leishman (66) and rookie Jonas Blixt (66).

Phil Mickelson, making his first Nelson start in five years, had four consecutive birdies on the front nine and went on to a round of 66 to finish four strokes back. He tied for seventh with Ken Duke, who also had a string of four birdies in a row in his own 66.

Pride let out a scream when his final putt dropped. Pride, who went to the University of Alabama, then watched the final group play the hole, and applauded on the clinching putt by Dufner, who went to rival Auburn.

"Everybody is making a big deal about that," Pride said of their college affiliations. "But he married a woman from Alabama to show him around."

Matt Kuchar, the world's fifth-ranked player who won The Players Championship a week earlier, had 70 and finished at 276 in a tie for 15th. He was trying to become the first PGA Tour player since Tiger Woods in 2009 to win in consecutive weeks.

Henry's ace came at the 154-yard No. 5 hole, when he hit a pitching wedge. When the ball rolled back into the cup, Henry thrust both of his arms in the air, then had an emphatic uppercut and he celebrated with the gallery.

After Henry's drive at the 504-yard 15th was way right and under a tree, he hit his approach to the middle of the green and made a 32-foot birdie putt that led to another, though more subdued fist pump. His approach at the easier par-5 16th went in a greenside bunker, but he blasted inside 2 1/2 feet for a birdie to get to 11 under.

Dufner had consecutive bogeys at Nos. 2 and 3, but quickly responded with consecutive birdies on the following two holes.

After a bogey at No. 11 following a bad tee shot, Dufner got back to 10 under with his birdie at the par-5 16th, when he blasted out of a greenside bunker to 6 feet.

The last of Mickelson's four birdies in a row came when he holed a 30-footer at the 461-yard eighth hole. That got the 10th-ranked player to 6 under at about the same time Dufner and Henry were finishing at No. 1, both at 8 under.

Mickelson was 8 under after a birdie at the par-5 16th, but his 3 1/2-foot par putt at the following par 3 circled the cup and rolled back toward him for his first bogey of the day.

"I was certainly disappointed with not getting that birdie," he said. "If I could get 17 or 18, get to 9 of 10 (under), you just never know."

Strasburg stars as Nationals beat Orioles, 9-3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stephen Strasburg hit his first major league home run and struck out eight batters in five innings to carry the Washington Nationals past the Baltimore Orioles 9-3 in interleague play Sunday.

Strasburg sent an 0-2 pitch from Chen Wei-yin into the Baltimore bullpen in the fourth inning to put the Nationals ahead 5-3. After dusting off his home run trot and returning to the dugout, Strasburg responded to a curtain call by waving to the crowd of 41,918.

The hard-throwing Strasburg singled and scored in the third inning, then followed a shot by Jesus Flores with one of his own in the fourth.

Known more for his pitching than his hitting, Strasburg (4-1) excelled at both. The right-hander allowed three runs, one earned, four hits and a walk in his first career appearance against Baltimore. He retired the last 10 batters he faced.

Danny Espinosa also homered, and Bryce Harper drove in two runs and scored three to help the Nationals avert a three-game sweep by their regional rivals.

AP

Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg (37) is patted with a bat by teammate Bryce Harper (34) after hitting his first career home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Washington, Sunday, May 20, 2012.

Tigers 4, Pirates 3

In Detroit, Max Scherzer struck out 15—the most by a Detroit pitcher in 40 years—as the Tigers rallied with three runs in the seventh inning to beat Pittsburgh.

Scherzer (3-3) threw 115 pitches in seven innings and was done for the day when the Tigers came back from a 2-1 deficit while he was still the pitcher of record. Alex Avila hit a two-run single through a drawn-in infield to put Detroit ahead.

Mickey Lolich struck out 15 batters for the Tigers in 1972 and set the club record of 16 in 1969.

Marlins 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Josh Johnson twice worked out of jams to earn his second straight win and help Miami win the series with Cleveland.

Johnson (2-3) allowed one run and five hits over seven innings as Miami took two of three from the Indians and improved to 14-5 in May, the best record in the majors this month.

Red Sox 5, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Josh Beckett pitched 7 2-3 strong innings and Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a three-run homer to lead Boston over Philadelphia.

Mike Aviles also homered and drove in two runs for Boston, which has won eight of 10 games overall after taking the final two of this three-game series.

Beckett (4-4) allowed one run on seven hits Sunday while striking out five and walking two.

Adrian Gonzalez went 2 for 4 and now is 9 for 16 lifetime against Phillies lefty Cliff Lee.

Braves 2, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Tim Hudson scattered four hits over 7 2-3 innings and David Ross homered to lead Atlanta over Tampa Bay.

Hudson (3-1), who is 8-1 overall against the Rays, retired nine in a row before Ben Zobrist opened the fourth with a line single to right.

Ross put the Braves up 1-0 on an opposite-field, solo-homer to right in the third. Jason Heyward made it 2-0 on a two-out, RBI single during the sixth.

Brewers 16, Twins 4

In Milwaukee, Jonathan Lucroy homered twice and had a career-high seven RBIs, and Zack Greinke pitched six strong innings to lead Milwaukee over Minnesota.

Lucroy connected on an 0-2 pitch from Jeff Gray in the seventh inning for his first career grand slam. He also had a solo homer in the first and an RBI single in the second.

Greinke (5-1) extended his unbeaten streak to 20 starts (14-0) as a Brewer at Miller Park.

Padres 3, Angels 2, 13 innings

In San Diego, pitcher Clayton Richard scored the winning run from first base on an error with two outs in the 13th inning to lift San Diego over Los Angeles.

By taking two of three from the Angels, the Padres had their first winning homestand of the season, going 3-2 against the Dodgers and Angels.

Rookie Miles Mikolas (1-1) pitched two perfect innings for his first big league win.

Rangers 6, Astros 1

In Houston, Colby Lewis allowed four hits in eight-plus innings and drove in two runs as Texas took a five-run lead in the first inning before coasting to the win over Houston.

Lewis (4-3) capped the Rangers' first-inning scoring with a bases-loaded, two-out single to center.

David Murphy added a solo home run in the fifth inning, a day after hitting his first career inside-the-park homer for Texas.

Mets 6, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Mike Baxter had three hits and came within a home run of the cycle, and Dillon Gee won for the first time in four starts as the New York Mets held on to beat Toronto.

New York third baseman David Wright went 2 for 4 with two RBIs and a walk, raising his majors-leading average to .412. Wright also struck out twice, once with the bases loaded.

Jose Bautista homered for Toronto, his 11th, but the Blue Jays' win streak ended at four.

Reds 5, Yankees 2

In New York, Johnny Cueto pitched effectively into the eighth inning, Ryan Ludwick delivered two big hits and Cincinnati closed its extended trip to New York with a win.

The Reds rallied late against CC Sabathia, sending the Yankees to their fifth loss in six games. Aroldis Chapman closed it out as Cincinnati took two of three at Yankee Stadium, right after splitting a pair at Citi Field against the Mets.

Athletics 6, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Collin Cowgill drove in the go-ahead runs and scored in a home plate collision with pitcher Tim Lincecum as Oakland snapped an 11-game skid in San Francisco.

Cowgill capped a four-run fourth inning against Lincecum and the collision put a scare into San Francisco and its struggling ace. The diminutive Lincecum tried to block the plate after a wild pitch, taking a helmet to the face and falling backward when Cowgill slid into him.

Mariners 6, Rockies 4

In Denver, Jesus Montero and Justin Smoak hit back-to-back home runs, and Blake Beavan tied a season-high with seven strikeouts as Seattle beat Colorado to complete a three-game sweep.

Mike Carp also homered and Dustin Ackley had two hits for the Mariners.

Carlos Gonzalez homered among his three hits and Dexter Fowler also homered for Colorado.

Diamondbacks 2, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Wade Miley pitched seven sharp innings and John McDonald drove in the first run with a bunt single to lead Arizona over Kansas City.

Miley (5-1) limited the Royals to five hits while throwing 99 pitches. The rookie walked two and struck out three, sending Kansas City to its 17th loss in 22 home games this season.

David Hernandez and J.J. Putz each pitched an inning to finish off the shutout. Putz earned his ninth save in 11 opportunities.

White Sox 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Jake Peavy pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and Adam Dunn hit his 14th homer to help the White Sox complete a three-game sweep of the Cubs.

Gordon Beckham and Tyler Flowers also went deep as the White Sox matched season highs with three homers in a game and four straight wins. Back-to-back homers by Beckham and Dunn leading off the fourth gave the White Sox a 2-0 lead.

Flowers made it 3-0 with a drive to start the fifth off Paul Maholm (4-3).

Peavy (5-1) struck out seven and walked two over 6 1-3 innings

Dodgers 6, Cardinals 5

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Scott Van Slyke connected for his first major league homer, a go-ahead, three-run shot in the seventh inning against his father's former team, as Los Angeles rallied to beat St. Louis.

Dodgers rookie Elian Herrera started the winning rally with a one-out single against Victor Marte, and Bobby Abreu greeted Mark Rzepczynski (0-2) with a single. Van Slyke, the son of former All-Star outfielder Andy Van Slyke, swung at a 3-0 pitch and drove it into the left-field bullpen after Andre Ethier struck out.

Javy Guerra (2-3) got the win, which completed a three-game sweep for the Dodgers and improved the best record in the majors to 28-13.

Babe Ruth jersey sells for record $4.4 million

A baseball jersey worn by The Bambino sold for more than $4.4 million Sunday, a record for any item of sports memorabilia, according to the buyer and seller.

SCP Auctions, based in California, said the circa 1920 New York Yankees uniform top is the earliest known jersey worn by Ruth and it fetched $4,415,658 at the company's April auction, which ended Sunday. That price broke the previous record of $4,338,500 set in 2010 for James Naismith's founding rules of basketball.

Lelands.com said it submitted the winning bid for the jersey, which had been displayed for years at The Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum in Baltimore. The road top has "New York" written across the front and the Hall of Fame slugger wore it shortly after he was sold to the Yankees by the Boston Red Sox for $100,000 following the 1919 season.

Suzan French, a spokeswoman for Lelands.com, said the company plans to sell the jersey privately rather than re-auction it.

"Such a spectacular piece will find a home with one of our private clients who truly appreciates its historic significance," Lelands.com president Michael Heffner said in a statement.

Ruth retired in 1935 with 714 home runs, the major league record for nearly 40 years. Hank Aaron broke that mark and then was passed by Barry Bonds, who finished with 762.

In addition, Ruth's 1934 New York Yankees cap that was owned by former major league pitcher David Wells sold for $537,278 at auction. The colorful Wells bought the cap for about $30,000 from a collector and famously paid homage to his idol by wearing it on the mound with the Yankees during a game on June 28, 1997.

Hall of Fame linebacker Lawrence Taylor's New York Giants Super Bowl ring from the 1990 season went for $230,401. Those items also set records, for a baseball cap and a Super Bowl ring, SCP Auctions said.

"This proves again that Babe Ruth is `king' in the sports memorabilia world," SCP Auctions president David Kohler said in a statement.

Also included in the auction was the high-end baseball card collection belonging to former big league All-Star Dmitri Young. Top prices were a 1954 Hank Aaron rookie card ($537,954) and a 1955 Roberto Clemente rookie card ($432,690). The proceeds will help Young begin a foundation to help kids and student athletes near his home in Ventura County, Calif., SCP Auctions said.

Other auction highlights included:

- 1924-28 Babe Ruth H&B professional model game-used bat ($591,007).
- 1968 Mickey Mantle autographed New York Yankees game-worn road jersey ($366,967).
- Circa 1931 Lou Gehrig New York Yankees game-worn home jersey ($275,706).
- Bobby Thomson's 1951 "Shot Heard `Round the World" cap ($173,102).
- Jackie Robinson 1950 All-Star game professional model bat ($133,234). ***(AP)***

Clemens trial resumes with more from ex-trainer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Roger Clemens perjury trial resumes with the final day of testimony from Brian McNamee, the government's key witness.

McNamee, Clemens' former strength coach, says he injected the former pitcher with steroids and human growth hormone. Defense lawyers tried to portray McNamee as a serial liar over several days of cross-examination.

Prosecutors will finish their redirect questions of McNamee on Monday.

The judge is expected to rule on a government motion to allow previously barred evidence that shows McNamee supplied drugs to other baseball players who have since acknowledged they used them.

Clemens is accused of lying to Congress in 2008 when he said he never took steroids or HGH.

The trial is entering its sixth week.

Friday is deadline to register for UBA youth caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The deadline to register a team into Unified Basketball Association's 3rd Summer Youth Basketball League is Friday, May 25.

The league offers a U17 and U25 division and is scheduled to tip off on June 1 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The required roster and waiver forms can be obtained at Safety 1st System on Middle Road in Gualo Rai or at the Garapan Community Guidance Center next to the basketball court.

The entrance fee to participate is $100 per team and uniforms are optional, but teammates must at least suit up in like colors. If teams do not have uniforms, color code sleeves will be provided during games.

Following the opener, games will run the next day and continues weekly thereon on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Monday and Wednesday dates will hold one game per night with double features set over the weekend, however the schedules per division have not been finalized.

The league will utilize a round-robin format, however the playoff format will depend on the turnout.

"This league has always been strictly for the youth to give them something to do during their summer break, which is why we try our best to keep the entrance fee and other expenses for the teams as low as possible," stated UBA president James Lee in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee also shared news that the UBA is partnering up this year with Rollers Basketball Club.

The RBC is fielding two of its squads (U15A and U14B) to appear for the first time ever in the Philippines in the upcoming 2012 Manila-Pacific Rim Goodwill Games slated from July 23 to July 30. Thus, a portion of the funds generated will be donated to the youngsters.

The UBA recently donated a pair of D-Man multisport equipment for the group to use at their weekly practices. The D-Man poses as a defender on the court to more safely help developing players learn how to shoot the ball under coverage.

The equipment prevents injuries that may occur against live opponents and is adjustable for kids of all sizes. It can also be used for other sports such as soccer and volleyball.

UBA's first youth season started back in 2009, headlined as the Docomo Pacific Summer Youth League, but the event took a pause in 2010 mainly because of the Micronesian Games.

For more information, contact UBA's Lee at 482-0290, RBC's Joe Diaz at 285-4141, or email unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Unified Basketball Association's James Lee, second right, stands with Roller Basketball Club's Joe Diaz, front second left, and some Rollers players with a pair of D-Man Multi-sport practice equipment that was donated to the group by the UBA last Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	27	15	.643	–
Tampa Bay	25	17	.595	2
Toronto	23	19	.548	4
New York	21	20	.512	5 1/2
Boston	20	21	.488	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	23	18	.561	–
Chicago	21	21	.500	2 1/2
Detroit	20	21	.488	3
Kansas City	16	24	.400	6 1/2
Minnesota	14	27	.341	9

West Division

Texas	26	16	.619	–
Oakland	21	21	.500	5
Seattle	19	24	.442	7 1/2
Los Angeles	18	24	.429	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	26	16	.619	–
Washington	24	17	.585	1 1/2
Miami	22	19	.537	3 1/2
New York	22	19	.537	3 1/2
Philadelphia	21	21	.500	5

Central Division

St. Louis	22	19	.537	–
Cincinnati	21	19	.525	1/2
Pittsburgh	19	22	.463	3
Houston	18	23	.439	4
Milwaukee	17	24	.415	5
Chicago	15	26	.366	7

West Division

Los Angeles	28	13	.683	–
San Francisco	21	20	.512	7
Arizona	19	23	.452	9 1/2
San Diego	16	26	.381	12 1/2
Colorado	15	25	.375	12 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KFC

From Page 28

KFC went on to limit Gualo Rai to just 11 points in the third quarter and pulled away, 53-36, heading into the final period.

Francisco and Jeff Durant both tallied six points in the stand for KFC.

KFC then buried three bombs from behind the arc in the fourth quarter as they cruised to an easy win.

Francisco led three teammates in double figures with 15, while Gualo Rai's Samson topped the field overall with 16.

In the second tiff, Marianas Water spread the ball around well in the first quarter and assumed an early 14-10 margin.

They then stretched it out to a 30-22 gap at intermission largely from a pair of 3-balls by Amor Casabuena.

Marianas Water held strong after the break and remained a few steps ahead, 45-36, with 10 minutes left in regulation. Six different players contributed on the on the offensive end.

Although Docomo stepped up its game in the second half and threatened a late comeback during the payoff period, Marianas Water's Dennis Pacheco figured it out in the end.

Pacheco's eight points at crunch time helped secure the win. He finished with 16 to lead all scorers, while Docomo's Olan Tengco managed 11 on the shirt end.

First Game

KFC 81 – Francisco15, Durant 12, Maranan 10, Lee 10, J. Deleon Guerrero 9, Tinio 6, Salas 5, R. Deleon Guerrero 4, Wallaby 3, Omnes 3, Mendiola 2.

Gualo Rai 54 – Samson 16, Jose 11, Dayrit 9, Manalon 7, Mallari 4, Galzote 4, Navarro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-13, 39-25, 53-36, 81-54.

Second Game

Marianas Water 57 – Pacheco 16, Olivos 12, Casabuena 9, Galulu 8, Devero 6, Surivan 2, Capalad 2.

Docom Pacific 51 – Tengco 11, Gomez 9, Lizardo 6, Usi 6, Cultura 3, Enriques 3, Omampo 3, Sancangco 3, Tudela 3, Bautista 2, Quinto 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 30-22, 45-36, 57-51.

TOP

From Page 28

As Matuis and Pacific Islands Club offers laser tag, but Top Shot PlayStation specializes in providing an authentic paintball experience to players of all experience levels in a safe environment.

"Paintball is much more than just playing army with a gun in the jungle, it helps develop teamwork, marksmanship, sportsmanship, gun safety, in addition to promoting exercise and a healthy lifestyle in a competitive forum.

The activities are well supervised to endure everyone's safety and we believe it is a whole lot of fun even for first-timers," said Top Shot's Keoni Hosono in an interview on Saturday.

The idea to create the Top Shot came in January of this year and it did not take long for the partnering Hosono and Limes families to make the vision a reality.

They are currently working to collaborate with various tourist agencies and even have ambitions to work with the Department of Public Safety's TRET tactical team and even offer a safe haven after-school program for youths in the future.

Top Shot offers a new experience to tourists at reasonable rates and presents even better local prices, which includes being suited up, locked and loaded for only $10 to $20 depending on what type of equipment and ammo chosen from an assortment of choices.

Patrons can start out popping a few rounds off at their target range, which includes a variety of different objects placed at varying distances, or jump into the War Zone for some full out five-on-five combat.

Top Shot uses Tipman 98 custom guns and have a wardrobe of protective equipment.

If you already have your gun and gear, then the entrance fee into the War Zone is only $10. The shop also offers 100 paintballs for just $5.

All patrons must first sign required safety waivers before partaking in any action.

Top Shot Playstation is located at the end of Sadog Tasi Drive. Hours of operation run from 8am to 5pm, seven days a week. Contact 323-3333 for more information.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Caledonia.

Club head coach Hiro Kimura said Tsunami Saipan will set aside part of the proceeds from its upcoming American Red Cross 2012 Summer Swimming Lessons and donate it to Wong for his Noumea trip.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer earlier said that he expects to incur a cost of more than $3,000 in order to compete against the best swimmers of the region, including Australia and New Zealand, in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships.

Aside from proceeds from the ARC swimming lessons, which are set from June 13 to 16 at the Mariana Resort & Spa pool and Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, Tsunami Saipan will also hold a yard sale at Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. Proceeds from the yard sale will also be donated to Wong.

As far as his expectations for Wong in Noumea, Kimura said he hopes the best athlete of the 2010 Palau Micronesian Games to reset several CNMI national records.

"I think it would be his target to reset CNMI records in all events he is participating. He has the ability and I expect nothing less," he said.

Kimura added that while participating alone in New Caledonia could be a challenge, he is confident that Wong could pull it through because he already has some experience with that, having also participated alone in the 2011 World University Games in China last year.

While no one from the CNMI will accompany Wong in Noumea, Saipan Swim Club co-founder and former Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Bill Sakovich will be there to guide him.

Sakovich coached Wong during his formative years in swimming.

Wong earlier said he hopes to get under U.S. Olympic Trials times when he represents the CNMI in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships from May 28 to June 2 at Noumea's Aquatic Centre.

He will compete in five events in New Caledonia—200m individual medley, 200m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, and 50m and 100m breaststroke.

GUAM

From Page 28

loon to 76-11 after three quarters.

Instead of loosening up on defense in the fourth quarter, the U.S. territory continued to press and harass the hapless Saipan 2 squad of coach Joe Diaz.

As a result, Saipan 2 was blanked in the payoff period and lost by 89 mammoth points.

In other games yesterday, CNMI 1 edged a fighting Tinian team, 67-64. The former took the first quarter, 16-14, before extending that lead to 33-29 at the half.

Tinian, however, came storming back at the start of the second half and took the driver's seat, 48-46. CNMI 1, however, regrouped in the final 10 minutes of the game to pull out the three-point victory.

Palau also won its debut after beating Saipan 1, 77-66. Saipan 1 actually took a 17-15 lead after the first quarter, but Palau edged them as the halftime buzzer sounded, 31-30.

Palau then got it rolling in the third, outscoring Saipan 1, 21-13, to take a 52-43 advantage into the payoff period. Scoring went up in the final 10 minutes of the ballgame with Palau scoring two more points than the home team to win by 11 markers.

Results of the CNMI 1-Palau and Saipan 1-CNMI 2 games were not available as of press time.

Women's action also got going yesterday with CNMI 1 taking on CNMI 2 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The second women's match featured Tinian against Guam, also at MHS. Results of those two matches will be published in tomorrow's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*.

Last Sunday, the 17-and-under MBT held its opening ceremony at the Ada Gym with no less than officials of the organizing Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands addressing the assembled crowd the importance of age group competition and grass roots development in the sport of basketball.

MISO Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Finals

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The ball pops out of the glove of Kagman's centerfielder in the MISO high school girls fast-pitch softball championship game between the Lady Ayuyus and Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Saipan Southern's pitcher Cathy Amandus tags out a runner at the plate.

Saipan Southern catcher Keanah Deleon Guerrero tries to throw out a runner at second base.

Saipan Southern's Jinky Kintaro gets ready to break to the plate as Kagman third baseman Acha Sakisat gets ready for anything that may fly her way.

Kagman shortstop Janica Lizama looks to first base after blocking a bad hop in the gap as Saipan Southern's Keanah Deleon Guerrero bolts to third base.

A Kagman runner hustles down the first baseline as a Saipan Southern first baseman scrambles to gain a handle on the ball.

Kagman third baseman Acha Sakisat tags out Saipan Southern's Daylinne Joseph.

Saipan Southern's Daylinne Joseph fires over to first base after snagging a pop fly for a nice double play.

Kagman pitcher Zerah Castro fires home a pitch late in the game.

Kagman's Janelle Brel rears back for a big swing.

Kagman's Jenni Dela Cruz takes a big cut at an incoming pitch.

Strasburg stars as Nationals beat Orioles, 9-3

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

James, Wade combine for 70 as Heat win Game 4

PAGE 24

Guam flexes muscles as MBT starts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Guam national junior team crushed the opposition at the start of the boys 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The U.S. territory beat CNMI 2 and Saipan 2 by an average of 91 points, as a shell-shocked local crowd could only marvel at the height and speed of the visitors against seemingly overmatched home teams.

Guam first took to the floor and hammered CNMI 2, 118-85. The southerners took an almost comedic 35-1 lead after the first quarter and then padded that some more at the half, 70-7.

It was an old-fashioned beat down as Guam, which have at least three six-footers to patrol the paint and an array of sharpshooters, took a 92-9 advantage after three quarters before coasting to the 93-point victory.

Saipan 2 didn't fair any better against the powerhouse squad, as C.J. Morales and company went down 4-23 after the first quarter.

Guam continued to floor the accelerator in the second and took a 44-6 lead at the break. The lead would then bal-

See GUAM on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

The height and heft of Guam were too much for two local teams as the U.S. territory opened with blowout wins in the 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, Father Ryan Jimenez, owner John and Carol Hosono, Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez take part in the ribbon ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of the new Top Shot Play-Station paintball facility on Sadog Tasi Drive last Friday.

Top Shot Playstation opens in Sadog Tasi

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A group just shy of 30 people gathered at the end of Sadog Tasi Drive on Friday for the grand opening of Saipan's newest paintball facility, Top Shot Play-Station.

Reps. Ray Tebuteb and Edmund Villagomez and former Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar were present for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting, which was followed by a prayer blessing by Father Ryan Jimenez. A food and drink reception came next before those in attendance celebrated by letting off some paintballs on the target range.

Paintball has been an on-again, off-again sport on Saipan, but some former Saipan Paintball Association players have preserved the interest in the sport and even picked up some other independent players over time who all still enjoy some grassroots backyard "woodsball" every now and again.

Independent players have been known to use the old radar tower in

See TOP SHOT on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan to raise funds for Rezne

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be raising funds to help defray the cost of sending 2010 NMASA Athlete of the Year Rezne Wong to the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships in Noumea, New

Wong

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

KFC, Marianas Water nab wins in DLX caging

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Ralph Francisco, seen here in this file photo, helped lead KFC to an 81-54 victory over host team Gualo Rai in Friday's Domino Lux DL/JOS Inter-color Basketball League matchup held at Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

KFC routed host team Gualo Rai, 81-54, early this past Friday evening, while Marianas Water fended off Docomo Pacific, 57-51, in the late night pairing as the 2012 Domino Lux DL/JOS Inter-color Basketball League continued over the weekend at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

A late 3-pointer gave KFC an early 15-13 lead in the opening 10 minutes of Friday's first matchup.

KFC then pushed up the pace and cashed in on some crafty line changes, surging ahead, 39-25, at halftime. Seven players put a hand on the action.

Nelson Samson led Gualo Rai with a dozen markers in the first two quarters, while eight points apiece from Ralph Francisco and Herbert Manahan paced KFC's variety of buckets over on the other side.

See KFC on Page 26